

4 KILLED IN HELICOPTER CRASH

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with good grades **8**

A Bear market
for Da Bears **14**

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finds a new
home **21**

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eye

Friday
OCTOBER 17, 2008

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L.A. TIMES



WHO IS CHRIS BRIDGES?

Ludacris looking to make a new name
for himself—this time as an actor **32-33**

2do

» **Meet chef Rocco DiSpirito**



» Send tips to redeye2do@hotmail.com

To dress

Dress up as Charlie Chaplin for a screening of "The Boot Cake" at 6 p.m. Friday or 3 p.m. Saturday at AMC River East 21 and you'll get in free.

To cook

Get some tips from chef Rocco DiSpirito, "Dancing with the Stars" castoff and host of A&E's "Rocco Gets Real," at a signing for his new cookbook at 1 p.m. Saturday at Borders (830 N. Michigan Ave.).

To see

Sweet Beginnings and the North Lawndale Employment Network host a fundraiser screening of "The Secret Life of Bees" at 11 a.m. Saturday at I.C.E. Chatham 14 (210 W. 87th St.). \$25 includes a small popcorn and drink.

To watch

View sports videos of everything from great football plays to cheerleader performances and European soccer brawls at fandom.com.

» Send tips to redeye2do@hotmail.com

txtables



aye, aye caption

Text us a funny caption for the photo above and we'll print the best in Monday's RedEye. To give it a shot, text the word "caption" followed by your brief caption and your name to 47383. Good luck!

THURSDAY'S WINNER

"Mom?"

—MICHAEL CONRAD



Random dilemma

We asked. You responded. Here are the results from Thursday's dilemma, in which we asked if you would rather use Chewbacca's toothbrush or wear Jabba the Hut's underwear. Cheers!

58%

Use Chewbacca's toothbrush

42%

Wear Jabba the Hut's underwear

HERE'S ANOTHER: Which would you rather do? Text "random" and the number of your response to 47383. You'll get the poll results instantly.

1. Lose the right to vote forever
2. Lose your driver's license for five years

» Do you have an idea for our Random Dilemma? Send it to ritaredeye@tribune.com.



54 43

TODAY'S FORECAST

Baby, it's cold(er) outside! Cloudy and cooler.



SAT.

60 45

Sunny days



SUN.

66 50

It might rain



MON.

61 45

Ditto



TUE.

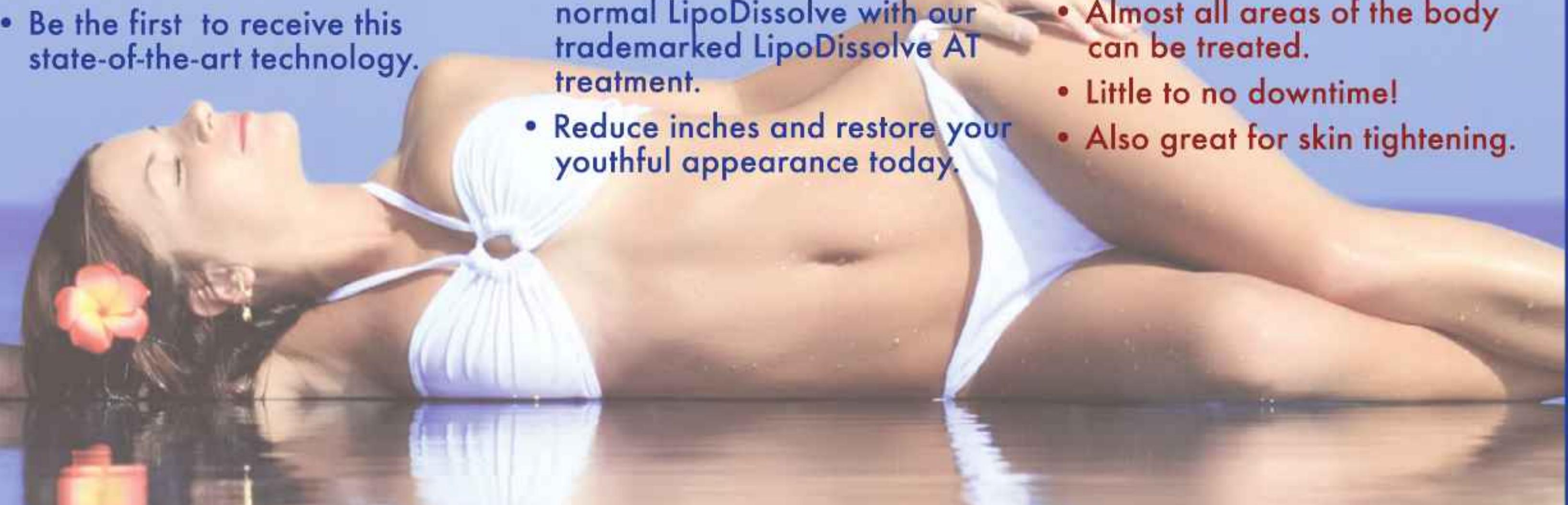
57 41

Sunny delight

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Average Joe no more

In the spotlight, 'Joe the Plumber' says he has no plumbing license

Associated Press

HOLLAND, Ohio Joe the Plumber said Thursday he doesn't have a license and doesn't need one.

Joe Wurzelbacher, better known as Joe the Plumber, the nickname Republican John McCain bestowed on him during Wednesday's presidential debate, said he works for a small plumbing company that does residential work. Because he works for someone else, he doesn't need a license, he said.

Wurzelbacher, who voted in the Republican primary and indicated he backed McCain, was cited by the GOP presidential candidate as an example of someone who wants to buy a plumbing business but would be hurt by Democrat Barack Obama's tax plans. Wurzelbacher said he was surprised that his name was mentioned so many other times.

"That bothered me. I wished that they had talked more about issues that are important to Americans," he told reporters gathered outside his home.

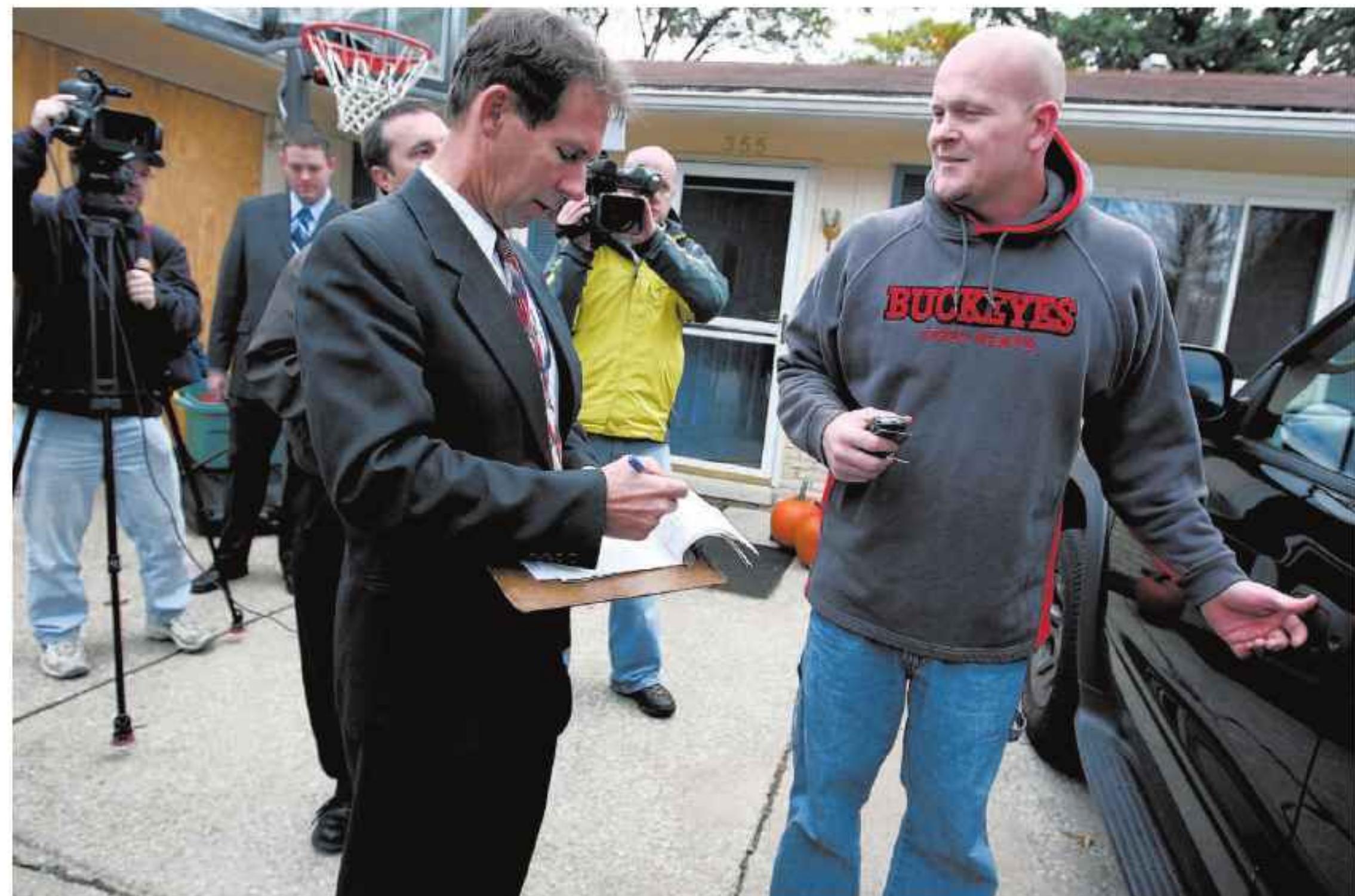
Wurzelbacher, 34, said he doesn't have a good plan put together on how he would buy Newell Plumbing and Heating in nearby Toledo.

He said the business consists of owner Al Newell and him. Wurzelbacher said he's worked there for six years and that the two have talked about his taking it over at some point.

"There's a lot I've got to learn," he said.

Wurzelbacher said he started his day with an early morning workout and came back to his suburban Toledo home to do live interviews with TV networks.

Reporters camped out by his house overnight, and by midmorning there were 21 people on his driveway surrounding him, holding cameras and notebooks.



Joe Wurzelbacher, or as Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain dubbed him during Wednesday's presidential debate, "Joe the Plumber," chats with members of the news media on Thursday outside of his home in Holland, Ohio. AP

Wurzelbacher said he's feeling overwhelmed.

"I'm kind of like Britney Spears having a headache. Everybody wants to know about it," he joked.

In Toledo on Sunday, Wurzelbacher told Obama that he was preparing to buy the plumbing company, which earns more than \$250,000 a year, and said: "Your new tax plan is going to tax me more, isn't it?"

Obama said that under his proposal taxes on any revenue from \$250,000 on down would stay the same, but that amounts above that level would be subject to a 39 percent tax, instead of the current 36 percent rate.

Wurzelbacher said Obama's tax plan wouldn't affect him right now, because he doesn't make \$250,000. "But I hope someday I'll make that," he said.

CELEBRITY OVERNIGHT

As he leaned against the Dodge Durango SUV parked in his driveway Thursday morning, Joe Wurzelbacher indicated to reporters who crowded around that he was a conservative, a fan of the military and McCain. He said meeting McCain would be an honor but said he hadn't been contacted by the Republican campaign.

Still, the plumber wouldn't say who he was voting for and brushed off a question about whether he could influence the election or other voters.

"I don't have a lot of pull. It's not like I'm Matt Damon," Wurzelbacher said.

"I just hope I'm not making too much of a fool of myself," he added. AP

NEWS IN NUMBERS



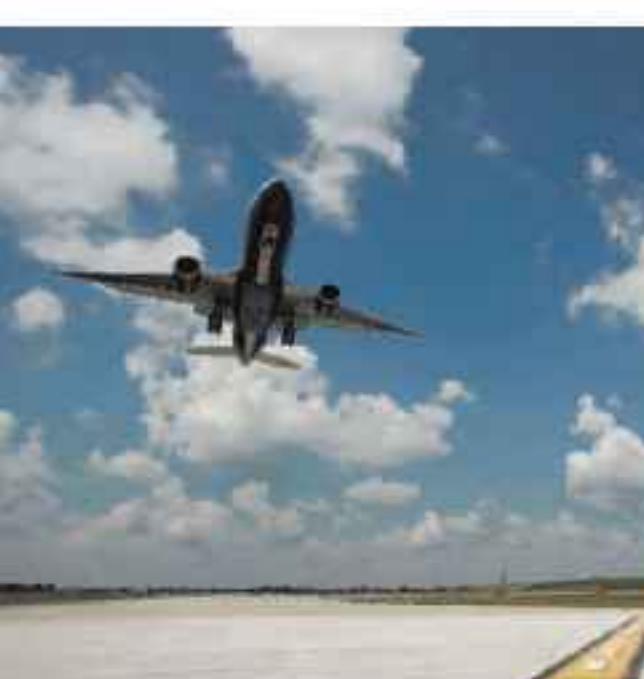
89%

The percentage of voters in an AP-Yahoo News survey who said the economy was important or extremely important, making it the top issue on voters' minds as Election Day nears.



3 months

Jail sentence for a British couple charged with having sex on the beach in Dubai. The judge also levied a 1,000-dirham (\$272) fine against Michelle Palmer and Vince Acors (above), both in their 30s.



1.5%

Drop in the number of passengers traveling on premium airline tickets in August, said the International Air Transport Association. Most premium ticket buyers are business travelers.

Sky's the limit for airline ads

Associated Press

NEW YORK As airline passengers grow wary, and perhaps weary, of more fees and higher ticket prices, some U.S. carriers may look to onboard advertisements as a way to raise revenue without further tapping customers' wallets and patience.

Advertisements already adorn the bottoms of security bins, in-flight TV screens and boarding passes—not to mention ads that have been appearing in-flight for years, such as those on napkins, beverages and magazines.

But Harlan Platt, a finance professor at Northeastern University, said that the number of onboard advertisements could soar as airlines try new ways to raise cash. As far as what kinds of ads will likely pop up on a plane's overhead bin, cabin bathroom door, or elsewhere, "the sky's the limit," said Platt.

"I really hope the pilots don't have ads on the back of their shirts, but other than that I think anything goes," he said. "It's all about taking advantage of an asset."

BRAND AID

US Airways Group Inc. was the first major U.S. carrier to put ads on tray tables and is now courting advertisers for its airsick bags.

AirTran Airways recently said it is considering placing ads on its planes, but said that it does have some limitations on placement.

"We decided against ads on the overhead bins because we don't want to detract from the brand experience," said Tad Hutcheson, vice president of marketing and sales. "We don't want [the plane] to look like a subway."

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Is this pop culture Armageddon?

Gather some canned goods. Stock up on bottled water. Head deep into the concrete bunkers.

Pop culture Armageddon is upon us.

This week, three separate events have signaled reality TV's official tipping point: A megalomaniac MC getting his own show. Two bitter buds from "The Hills" making peace. The worst "Apprentice" candidate ever offering career advice. If you thought reality hit the rocks when VH1 green-lit "Flavor of Love 2," read between the lines of these signs o' the times:

'The Hills' are alive

Even if you avoid MTV's "The Hills" like some kind of reality rash, you are likely aware that castmates Heidi Montag and Lauren Conrad are in a former-bestie blood feud. The irritating details of their rift—sparked by Heidi's unholy alliance with evil beau, Spencer Pratt—have been splashed all over the tabs and celebri-blogs for about two years.

But Tuesday, the former friends tearfully embraced and chatted amicably after Conrad's fashion bash, according to TV's "Extra!" Conrad later told usmagazine.com she appreciated the kind words of congratulations from Pratt's better half. It could be a make-up or just a fake-up, but the mere notion that these spoiled celebutantes occupied the same space for more than a few seconds is a countdown to catastrophe.

It makes no Cents

Hasn't the public had its fill of the most arrogant MC in the game? Evidently, MTV doesn't think so. Next month, "50 Cent: The Money and The Power" will begin airing on the network, according to an MTV release that said Fiddy will invest \$100,000 in the winning contestant.

Hope these contestants also invest—in bulletproof vests and some psychiatry sessions. 'Memba how Mr. Cent played The Game, his one-time protege and member of G-Unit? The Cali MC ended up feuding with Fiddy and getting bounced from the label back in 2005. One-time Fiddy friend Young Buck didn't fare much better. This summer, 50 leaked tapes of Buck crying and begging to be let back into the G-Unit family.

"Money and the Power" pawns might want to consider cozying up to Diddy instead.

Don't trip the switch

If Omarosa penned a book about how to start a catfight, it would make sense. But the fact that the two-time "Apprentice" reject is schooling women on how to succeed in business is mind-boggling. To be fair, "The Bitch Switch: Knowing How To Turn It On and Off" is an appropriate title, that is until you get to the "off" part.

So, be warned: It's unwise for an employee to get advancement ideas from the only woman who makes Janice Dickinson a sympathetic figure. Just remember, book deal or no, Omarosa is famous for being evil, not innovative.



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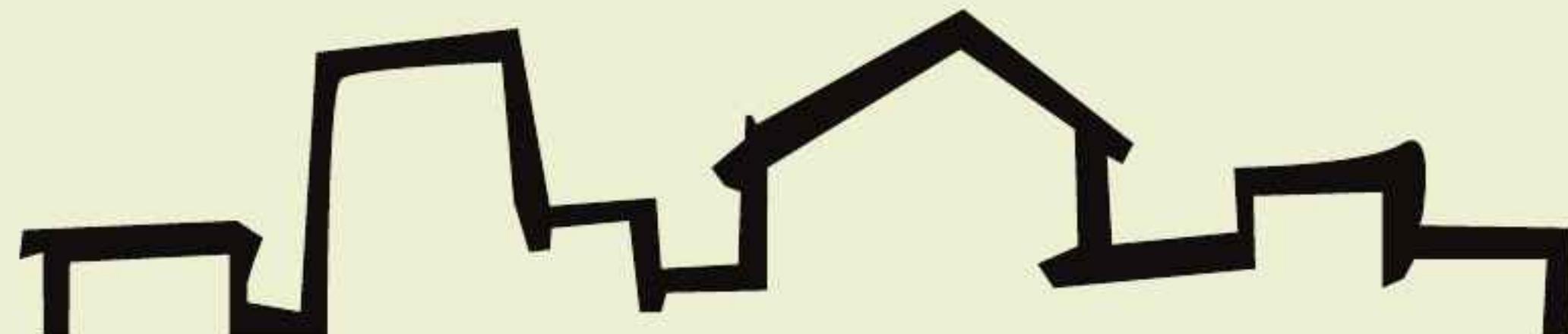
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CRASH WAS 2ND FOR COMPANY IN 5 YEARS

4 killed after helicopter hits guy wire on way to Children's Hospital

Chicago Tribune

The crash of the medical helicopter run by Bolingbrook-based Air Angels is the second for the company in five years, and it prompted Children's Memorial Hospital—the flight's destination—to suspend flights from the company Thursday.

The crash Wednesday night in Aurora killed a 13-month-old girl, Kirstin Blockinger of Leland, Ill., who was being treated for seizures, according to hospital and air transport officials. Also killed were pilot Dell Waugh, 69, of Carmel, Ind.; nurse William Mann, 31, of Chicago; and paramedic Ronald Battiato, 41, of Peotone.

Investigators said the helicopter apparently struck a guy wire on a 750-foot radio tower just before midnight, hitting it with a force strong enough to rip the rotor shaft from the aircraft while it was still in the air. Shards of rotor debris showered onto an apartment complex parking lot below as the helicopter spun into a fiery crash.

Air Angels has flown critical-care flights in Illinois, Indiana and surrounding states for more than 10 years, according to a company statement. It also grounded its remaining flights until an investigation could be concluded, a spokesman said.

"We'd like to especially reach out and share our condolences with the family of the patient on board, and the family members of our crew, who were tragically killed last night," said Air Angels CEO Jim Adams.

Many of the medical helicopter crews were known to paramedics in Leland, Ill., where Kirstin lived, said fire chief Don Hecathorn.

"There could have been 101 different things that led up to this," Hecathorn said. "It could've been nobody's fault at all."

The girl was taken by ambulance to the emergency room at Valley West Community Hospital in Sandwich, Ill. Medical officials wanted to airlift her to Central DuPage Hospital in Winfield, where she had been treated before. But that hospital was full,



An official leads the parents of 13-month-old Kirstin Blockinger on Thursday from the scene of the helicopter crash that claimed her life along with three others.

SCOTT STRAZZANTE/Tribune

RESIDENTS EVACUATED

About 1,000 people living near the site of the fatal medical helicopter crash in Aurora were asked by police to evacuate their homes Thursday evening after engineers raised concerns about the structural integrity of the radio tower involved in the crash.

Aurora Police Sgt. Chris Whitfield said everyone within 1,000 feet of the tower was being evacuated. The majority of residents were from a nearby apartment complex. **TRIBUNE**

so the patient and flight crew headed for Children's Memorial instead, said Julie Pesch, a spokeswoman for Children's. They left around 11:15 p.m. Wednesday in a Bell 222 helicopter based at Clow Airport in Bolingbrook.

The pilot reported no mechanical problems before takeoff and weather was not an issue below 10,000 feet, officials said. John Brannen, NTSB senior air safety investigator, said the pilot was last in communication with

the tower at DuPage Airport, where he asked for clearance through the airspace.

Brannen said Waugh was flying at 1,400 feet above sea level, or about 700 feet above the ground. He couldn't explain why the helicopter was flying low enough to risk striking a radio tower that topped out at 749 feet above the ground. Area aviators said the tower was so well known it served as a navigation landmark. The tower's owners said its lights were working, and federal officials agreed.

Accident highlights grim statistic

Chicago Tribune

With 35 deaths so far in 2008, this year is the worst on record in the U.S. for accidents involving emergency medical helicopters—aircraft that experts describe as the most dangerous in the sky.

While major airline crashes have become extremely rare in the last decade in the U.S., the fatal accident rate for medical helicopters is 6,000 times that of commercial airliners, authorities said.

The helicopters help save thousands of lives each year by rushing severely injured or ill patients to high-level medical treatment. But the rapid growth in such flights, combined with an absence of strong safety oversight, has led to more fatal accidents, according to aviation authorities.

The latest accident happened Wednesday night, when an emergency medical helicopter crashed in Aurora and killed a 13-month-old girl, the pilot, a nurse and a paramedic.

"My feeling is this accident rate is epidemic," said Jim Hall, a former chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board.

Lax government regulation and fierce competition for customers have created a disincentive for helicopter transport companies to invest in advanced pilot training and safety equipment to protect flight crews, medical personnel and patients, the aviation authorities said.

Adding to the safety problem is the pressure pilots of medical evacuation choppers face when weighing a patient's dire situation against their own judgment of whether conditions are safe to launch.

2 shot in West Garfield Park

A man and a woman were shot Thursday in West Garfield Park on the West Side.

The shooting occurred about 1:30 p.m. in the 4500 block of West Harrison Street, police said.

The man, 24, and woman, 25, were treated in Mt. Sinai Hospital, said Eve Rodriguez, a spokeswoman for the Chicago Fire Department. She did not know their conditions.

Blue Line service to be suspended

CTA rail service on the Blue Line will be suspended between the Irving Park and Belmont stations from 9 p.m. Friday until 3 a.m. Monday for rail repairs.

The agency said Thursday it will replace "deteriorated rail ties, tie plates and spikes." Shuttle buses will operate between the Irving Park and Belmont stations, stopping at the Addison station in between.

An additional shuttle bus will be provided for customers with disabilities, the release stated.

Arson suspected in Ukrainian Village fire

A garage fire being investigated as arson was one of three fires this week within a block of one another in Ukrainian Village, Chicago police said.

No injuries were reported. The garage fire happened about 10:15 p.m. Tuesday in the 1900 block of West Chicago Avenue, Officer Daniel O'Brien, a police spokesman, said Thursday. He said the fire is classified as arson.

O'Brien could not say whether the other two fires also were being investigated as arson.

Playboy cutting back

Playboy Enterprises says it plans to cut 55 employees and eliminate 25 vacant positions.

The Chicago-based publishing and entertainment company made the announcement Wednesday in a Securities and Exchange Commission filing. Playboy chairman and chief executive Christie Hefner also sent a letter to workers Wednesday saying the troubled economy was to blame.

The company also will consolidate facilities and reduce travel and overtime, said Hefner, who is the daughter of founder Hugh Hefner.

Body found in restaurant identified

A co-owner of a Lakeview restaurant found slain in the basement of the business may have been attacked by someone he knew, authorities said.

The victim, identified as Randall Hilderbrand by the Cook County medical examiner's office, was found in the basement of Lucca's Restaurant in the 2800 block of North Southport Avenue on Wednesday afternoon after someone called authorities, police said.

Hilderbrand's hands were bound, and he died of multiple injuries. His death was ruled a homicide, the medical examiner's office said.

It was unclear whether anything was taken from the restaurant, but the initial investigation shows Hilderbrand's attacker may have been a "known acquaintance," said Monique Bond, police spokeswoman.

Hilderbrand, 47, lived in a high-rise condominium building in the 3500 block of North Lake Shore Drive. At one time, he worked as an assistant manager of doormen at that building, according to a doorman who said Hilderbrand

hired him in 2002. Hilderbrand resigned from that job in 2006, said the doorman, who identified himself only as Max. He still lived in the building with a roommate, he said.

Hilderbrand had an easygoing demeanor and was well-liked by the residents in the building, he said. He said he had not seen Hilderbrand's roommate in a couple of days.

The other owner of the restaurant could not be reached Thursday. The restaurant remained dark, with a police car posted outside Thursday.

Sheriff: Evictions back on agenda

A week after suspending all mortgage foreclosure-related evictions in Cook County, Sheriff Tom Dart announced Thursday that he would resume those evictions starting next Monday.

The reversal comes after discussions with the court officials responsible for handling mortgage foreclosures to create language that would ensure the rights of good-standing tenants in foreclosed buildings.

"After these extensive discussions, we've been assured that we're not going to be asked to evict innocent tenants," said Dart. "But if we find it going on again, we will halt evictions again if necessary."

The Illinois Bankers Association and the Illinois Mortgage Bankers Association could not immediately be reached for comment.

Dart suspended all mortgage foreclosure evictions on Oct. 9 because his sheriffs, who are responsible for evictions, were showing up to properties where tenants had not been informed that the buildings they were renting in were in foreclosure.

As a result, sheriffs were doing the work of notifying tenants that their buildings were in foreclosure, a procedure that Dart said should have fallen on banks, and were costing the taxpayers money.

His blanket suspension included homeowners living in their foreclosed properties.

The new order will require banks to document in specific detail the names of all tenants in a foreclosed building as well as when they were notified about impending foreclosure proceedings.

DIRTY DINING City shutters Harold's spot

City inspectors shut down a Harold's Chicken Shack on the South Side on Thursday because the restaurant didn't have any hot water, the Department of Streets and Sanitation said in a press release.

The Chicken Shack, at 6843 S. Ashland Ave., also was cited for failing to have a certified food manager on premises and inadequate pest control after inspectors noted roach activity.

Workers were installing a water heater in the shop Thursday night, a Harold's employee said, but he didn't know when the shop would reopen.



Manley High School students walk through the hallway on Thursday after being rewarded with money for good grades. ZBIGNIEW BZDAK/TRIBUNE

CPS students cash in on good grades

When this weekend's homecoming dance rolls around, freshman Khadijah Alfred will be decked out in a new outfit thanks to the \$125 check she earned Thursday for getting straight A's the last five weeks.

The 14-year-old at Manley Career Academy High School is one of more than 1,650 Chicago Public Schools students cashing in on a new district program offering money to freshmen at 20 schools for getting top—and even average—grades in five core subjects including math, English and science. District officials said students earned \$265,986 this time, with the money coming from a Harvard University education research laboratory and private donations.

Every five weeks, students receive \$50 for A's, \$35 for B's and \$20 for C's. Students get

half the money now and collect the rest only if they graduate. For Alfred, who wants to go to law school, that's money in the bank for college.

"It's awesome. I'm going shopping," she said. "It made me work a little bit harder, but I'm already a highly motivated person and I like to work hard."

Schools chief Arne Duncan said 86 percent of Manley freshmen earned money for grades—the highest percentage in the district. At a news conference, he told Manley freshmen they will serve as role models to younger students if they keep their grades up.

"This is about success now, but success now is not enough. ... There are no good jobs out there without a high school diploma," he said.



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Lawrence & Pulaski
Lincoln Mall
Lincolnwood Town Center
Milwaukee & Wisner
Navy Exchange
North & Milwaukee
North Riverside Park Mall
Oakbrook Shopping Center
Old Orchard Shopping Center
Ontario & Wabash
Orland Park Shopping Center
Posen

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773.348.0154
773.735.0726
630.851.1300
847.390.3317
847.855.0605
847.816.1451
773.752.6015
773.286.1335
773.589.1129
312.456.5100
773.202.1465
708.283.1600
847.673.5900
773.276.1832
847.578.0809
773.227.1802
708.447.1717
630.586.9500
847.677.0900
312.787.3216
708.460.6200
708.489.9040

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Spring Hill Mall
St. Clair Square
State & Monroe
Stratford Square Mall
University Park Mall
Water Tower Place
Westfield Chicago Ridge Mall
Westfield Louis Joliet Mall
Woodfield Mall
Yorktown Shopping Center
BENSENVILLE
York and Grand
BURBANK
78th & Cicero
EVANSTON
Sherman & Clark
EVERGREEN PARK
95th & Western
Evergreen Plaza Shopping Center
HILLSIDE
N. Mannheim Rd. at Washington

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847.836.1545
618.632.3200
312.727.0240
630.351.1300
574.273.2781
312.944.9221
708.499.6200
815.439.7800
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1 Stevens' wife testifies

Catherine Stevens, the wife of Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens (above), testified at his corruption trial in Washington on Thursday that she didn't know a crooked businessman was bankrolling the couple's chalet renovations. Stevens is charged with lying on Senate financial disclosure forms to conceal more than \$250,000 in home improvements. AP PHOTO

2 High-rise evacuated

A high-rise office building in Clayton, Mo., was evacuated Thursday after what some witnesses described as an explosion. Witnesses said one person may have been hurt, but that was not immediately confirmed.

3 Well-wishers call Reagan

Nancy Reagan is being deluged with calls and flowers from well-wishers as she recovers in an L.A. hospital from a painful broken pelvis. Sen. Edward Kennedy, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Diane Sawyer and Chris Matthews are among callers to Reagan's room. Flowers were sent from John McCain, Newt Gingrich and Gov. Sarah Palin's office.

4 Lady's got a gun

A woman will spend up to three years in prison for packing weapons in her baby's stroller. Stephanie Wilson of Utica, N.Y., pleaded guilty to carrying an unloaded sawed-off shotgun in the buggy, where police also found several knives and a box cutter. A judge urged Wilson, 29, to get mental health counseling at her sentencing Thursday.

5 Kansas City violence

Killings in Kansas City, Mo., are happening at an alarming rate, and police and residents say the slayings can be traced to the same urban maladies that have plagued the city for years, including economic depression and failed education. The yearly homicide toll rose Thursday to 105, and officials say 2008 could wind up as the deadliest year in Kansas City since the 1990s.

FDA to focus on China

FDA officials say the agency will establish its first office in China before the end of the year. It's part of a broader plan to assure the safety of imports from the developing world. The government plans to place more than 60 food and drug regulators worldwide over the next year.

EPA sets new lead standard

The Environmental Protection Agency is slashing the amount of lead allowed in the nation's air by 90 percent.

EPA officials, who were under a federal court order to set a new health standard for lead by midnight Wednesday, said the new limit would better protect health, especially children's.

Exposure to even low levels of lead early in life can affect learning, IQ and memory.

"Our nation's air is cleaner today than just a generation ago, and last night I

LEAD LIMIT

The new limit—0.15 micrograms per cubic meter—is the first update to the lead standard since 1978, when it helped phase out leaded gasoline. It is 10 times lower than the current standard, which was 1.5 micrograms per cubic meter.

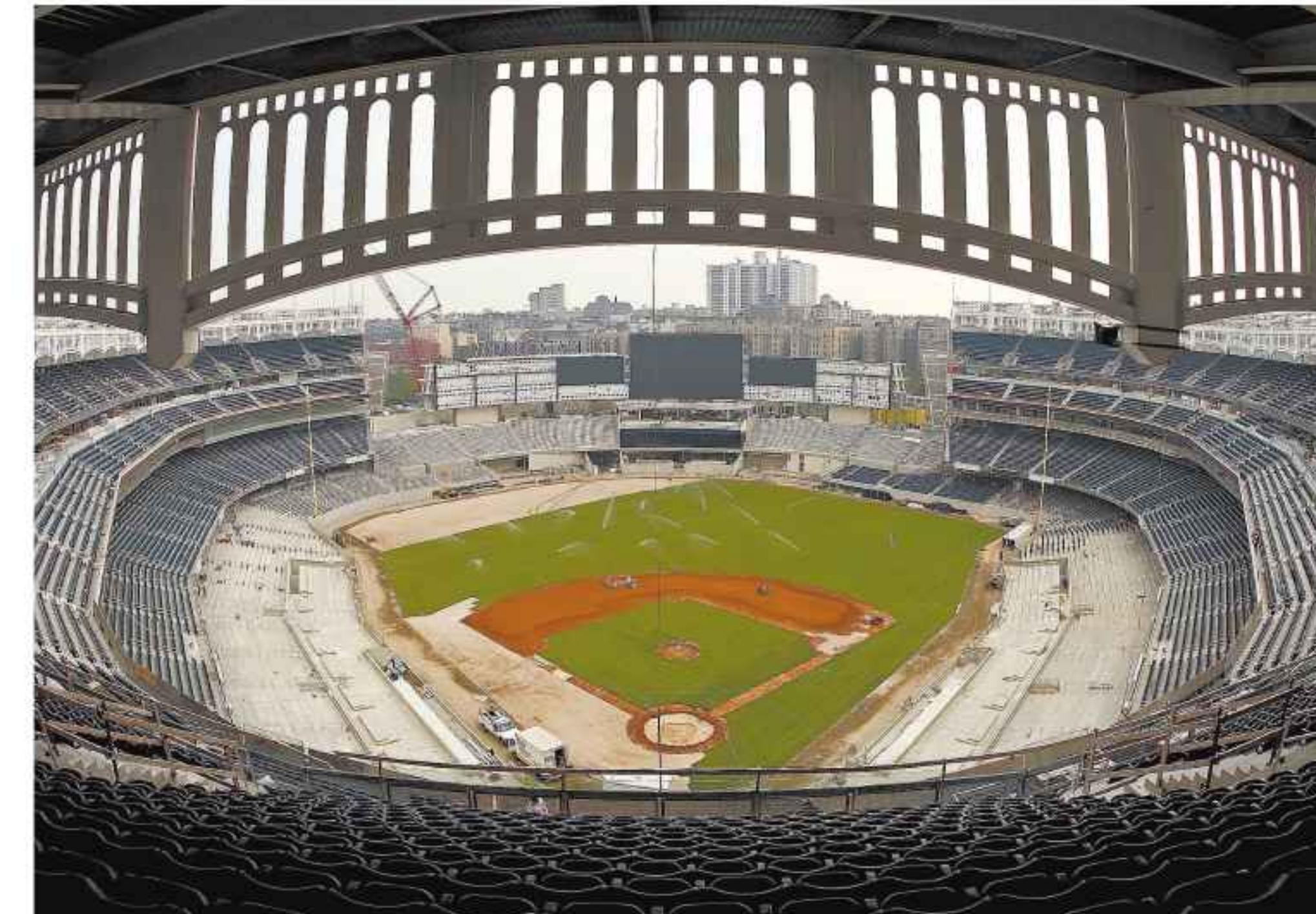
built upon this progress by signing the strongest air quality standards for lead in our nation's history," Stephen Johnson, the EPA administrator, said Thursday. "Thanks to this stronger standard, EPA

will protect my children from remaining sources of airborne lead."

Environmentalists hailed the move, but said the agency will have to boost monitoring to ensure that the standard is met.

"We commend EPA for taking a giant step in the right direction, but they need to greatly expand the lead monitoring network if they hope to enforce this standard," said Dr. Gina Solomon, a senior scientist with the Natural Resource Defense Council.

New sod



6 NEW YORK Workers lay sod Thursday at the new Yankee Stadium in the Bronx. Most seats in the new stadium are in place, except for the lower level, and the dugouts have been cemented. GETTY IMAGES



2009
Subaru
Forester



Forester is No. 1

Motor Trend magazine has picked the 2009 Subaru Forester as its SUV of the year, citing its comfort on the road, competency off the pavement and fuel efficiency in a time of high fuel prices. The Forester won because of its value, roominess, versatile powertrains and fuel efficiency, magazine editor-in-chief Angus MacKenzie said.

The all-wheel-drive Forester with a 2.5-liter, four-cylinder engine with an automatic transmission gets an estimated 20 miles per gallon in city driving and 26 on the highway.

With a base price of just under \$20,000 and less than \$32,000 fully equipped, the Forester is a good value, MacKenzie said.

» Other finalists were:

BMW X6
Chevrolet Traverse
Dodge Journey
Ford Flex
Honda Pilot
Infiniti EX
Infiniti FX
Kia Borrego
Lexus LX570
Nissan Murano
Toyota Sequoia
Volkswagen Tiguan



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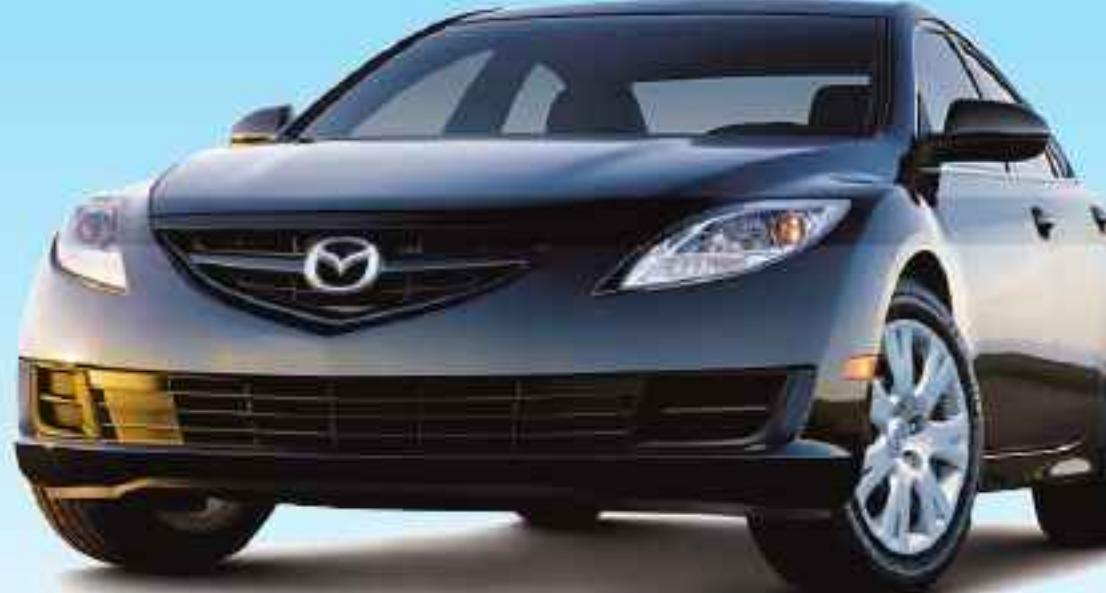
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1 German mosque opens

The first mosque with a minaret and a dome in Germany's formerly communist east opened on Thursday as police corralled protesters behind a roadblock three blocks away. The Ahmadiyya Muslim community celebrated the construction of the Khadija Mosque, a white, two-story structure capped with a 42-foot silver dome in Berlin's Pankow district.

2 Workers rebel

Chinese workers who were building a resort on the Atlantic island of Turks and Caicos when the financial meltdown busted the project demanded wages Thursday and reportedly were holding Israeli contractors at the site. An Israeli spokesman said the construction workers have put West Caicos island "under siege" and said an undetermined number of Israeli contractors were trapped.

3 Ex-NBA star to advise Serbia

Former NBA star Vlade Divac has become an adviser in Serbia's government. The 40-year-old says he will be in charge of humanitarian issues and sports, and will work with Vice Premier Ivica Dacic.

4 Iran, Iraq join forces

Iran and Iraq have agreed to work together in tracing thousands of people still missing after the war between the countries in the 1980s, the International Committee of the Red Cross said Thursday in Geneva.

5 U.S. soldier killed

An Afghan policeman hurled a grenade and opened fire on a U.S. military foot patrol in eastern Afghanistan on Thursday, killing an American soldier and raising fears that insurgents have infiltrated the police. It was the second attack by a policeman on U.S. soldiers in eastern Afghanistan in less than a month.

6 Pipeline explosion

Police are investigating an explosion targeting a gas pipeline on the British Columbia-Alberta border. It was the second explosion targeting a gas line owned by Encana this week. The explosion detonated overnight appears to be a deliberate act, police said.

**7 Female force**

A graduation ceremony was held Thursday in Algiers for 490 policewomen. They'll join traffic organization and anti-crime units. **GETTY IMAGES**



8 LONDON Red, white and blue ticker tape fills the air in London's Trafalgar Square Thursday as crowds celebrate the success of the British Olympic and Paralympic 2008 team. **AP**

**YouTube queen**

8 She sent her first e-mail in 1976. She has her own Web site. And on Thursday, Queen Elizabeth II (above) uploaded video to YouTube during a visit to Google's British headquarters.

The company celebrated the queen's visit by creating a special version of its **google.co.uk** home page, which featured a silhouette of her head as the second "G" and a regal crown atop the "E" in their logo.

The queen, 82, herself has a presence on YouTube—she launched the Royal Channel in December. On Thursday, she uploaded archive footage to the channel of a 1969 reception at Buckingham Palace for British Olympians.

Sarkozy files complaint against ex-spy chief

9 PARIS French President Nicolas Sarkozy filed a legal complaint Thursday against a former national intelligence boss, following the publication of diaries packed with alleged details about Sarkozy's personal life.

The complaint, filed with the Paris prosecutor Thursday, charges Yves Bertrand and others with invasion of privacy, malicious accusation, forgery and use of forgery and concealment, Sarkozy's lawyer Thierry Herzog said.

Bertrand was director of the powerful Renseignements Generaux (RG) spy agency for

12 years until 2004. His diaries from this period were seized by judges recently as part of an investigation and extracts were published in *Le Point* news magazine last week.

Judges asked to see the diaries in the framework of a probe into a campaign to smear Sarkozy before his election as president.

Bertrand told TF1 television the diaries were not intended for publication, but simply as a record of rumors circulating about senior politicians.

"It's just a rough notebook, it's nothing official. It was stolen," he said.

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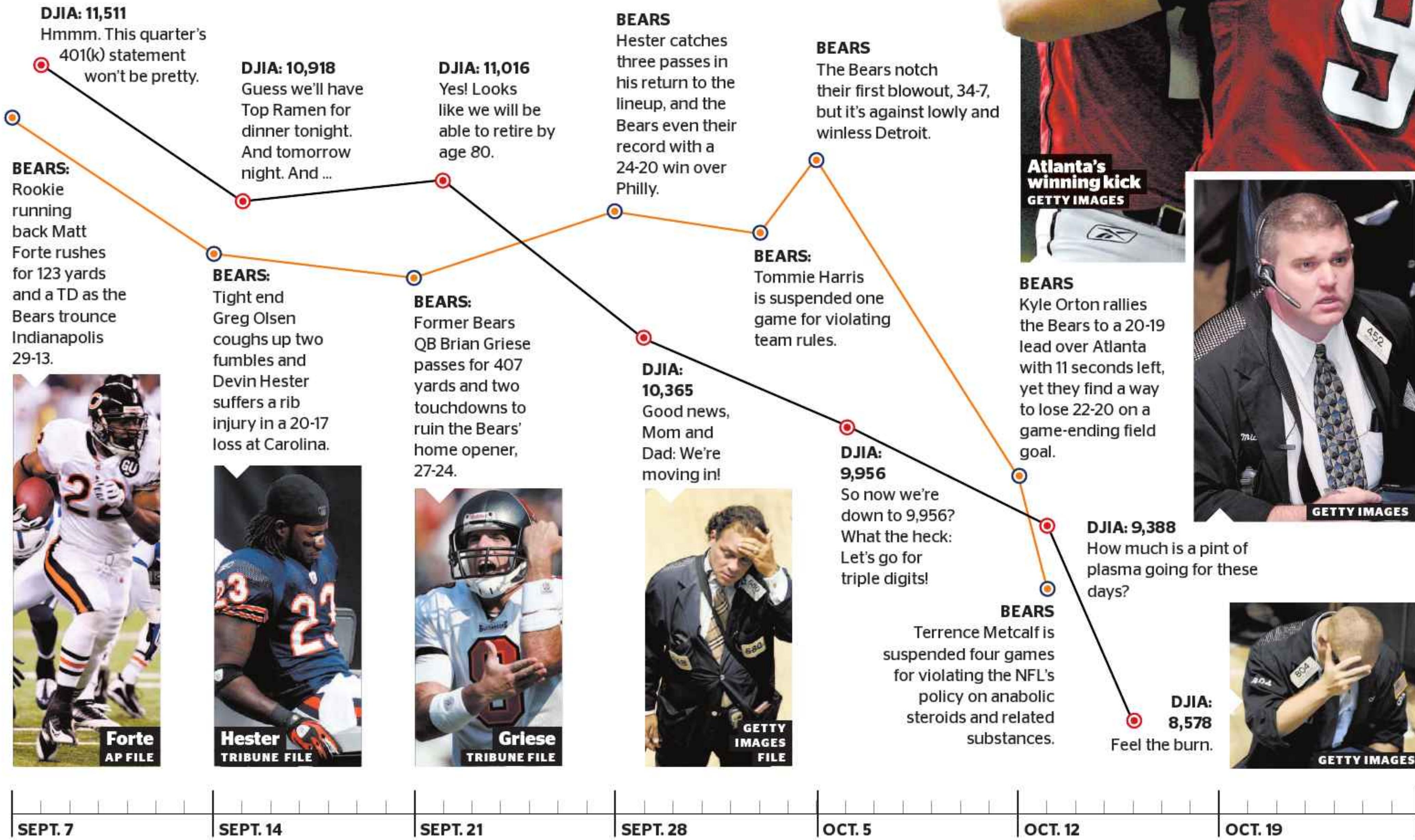
Bear market

If you think the stock market has been volatile recently, try taking a look at the local NFL team.

One week the Bears are world-beaters, the ferocious team from 2006 that marched all the way to the Super Bowl. The next week they're the fumbling, bumbling Bears of 2007.

Meanwhile, the Dow Jones Industrial Average may be sinking at a frightening clip, but at least it's consistent.

To demonstrate the point, RedEye has constructed a highly scientific graph to chart the Bears' performance against the Dow. See for yourself. **MICHAEL HINES FOR REDEYE**



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This scenario hard to tackle

Chicago Tribune

Say the Bears face another situation Sunday kicking off late in the fourth quarter against the Vikings, needing to make one tackle to protect a lead they had just taken.

Instead of letting injuries to players on the coverage team affect strategy, as coach Lovie Smith did Sunday when he squib-kicked to the Falcons with 11 seconds left, what about enlisting starters?

What about asking Lance Briggs and Brian Urlacher and Mike Brown and Kevin Payne to run down and cover the most important kickoff of the game?

Wouldn't the Bears rather trust those veterans, even if they're tired and don't usually play on special teams, than rookies such as Earl Bennett or Craig Steltz or other reserves pressed into coverage duty?

Wouldn't it make sense just that once, the exception and not the rule, to ask guys who are the best tacklers on the team to make the one tackle that could help preserve a victory?

Briggs immediately shot down that hypothetical question Thursday when it was posed to him.

"No," Briggs said. "I thought about that. But I don't know how smart it is to put guys out there who haven't been practicing at all. I know special teams and running down the kickoff is staying in your lanes, and for guys who haven't practiced it or been out there all year going after that ball, it's easy to get out of those lanes."



The Falcons' Harry Douglas (right) returns the Bears' short squib kick to set up Atlanta's game-winning drive. JIM PRISCHING/TRIBUNE

Up next
vs. Minnesota
Noon Sunday, Fox



txtable

Whiz Quiz

Think you know your stuff? Test your sports smarts against RedEye's prognosticating pooch Whizzer.

How many touchdowns did Bernard Berrian catch during his career with the Bears? Text "td" and the number of your answer to 47383. I'll text ya back to tell you if you got the answer right or wrong.

1. 21 2. 17 3. 13 4. 9 5. 5



For the record, Bears stink

Sorry, Bears, I'm out of sympathy at this point.

If you were looking for a fluff piece on how you guys should be 5-1 or 4-2 instead of the regularly scheduled 3-3, you've come to the wrong place.

You're here, mired in muck, atop the lamest division in football for a couple of reasons.

The defensive line can't get to the quarterback. You didn't get to rookie Matt Ryan once. Despicable.

Your corners stink. Nathan Vasher and Charles Tillman may be hurt, but come on; you let schleps beat you on Atlanta's final play. I'm sorry, this defense was supposed to be your strength?

Um, our coaches are in fact legally brain-dead. I'm not really sure what anyone sees in Bob Babich. Ron Turner still gets brain cramps, and I don't know whose call it was to squib kick to Atlanta, but it was lame.

The offensive line stinks too. Sure, Matt Forte is good, but his holes seem to be getting smaller and smaller. You can't drive a truck through 'em, not even sure you can drive a Prius through them.

Kyle Orton, you can play. It would have been nice to have a great receiver like, oh, I don't know, Bernard Berrian, but we accidentally lost him to the Vikings due to ... well ... nobody knows the reason.

So do me a favor, Jerry Angelo, when you draft this year, remember you need offensive players too. Start with about three offensive linemen. Yes, you need a speedy receiver. Oddly, you don't need a starting QB at the moment. We're entering very strange territory here.

Hey I'm a little sick of hearing how great the Blackhawks are now that they are finally back in the city's consciousness. If they want to stay there, I suggest they win more than one game. Keep playing like this, and I'm going to have to ask that the games not be televised.

Maybe the Bulls shouldn't be televised, either. If coach wants to experiment with lineups, try it in practice. As for the games, let's see some Derrick Rose.

Why not? He's only your best player.

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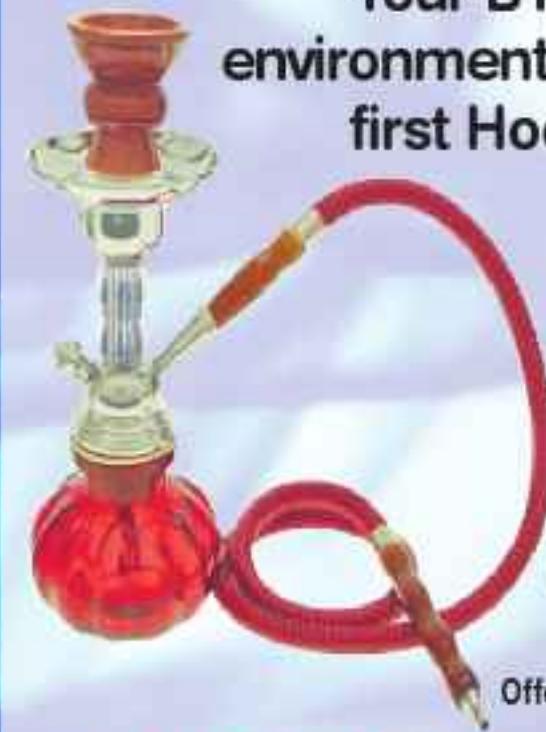
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1 How have you dealt with the ups and downs of the Bears' season?	Easy. Kick it short and employ the Cover 2. Sadly, it's not working.	Ups and downs? Oh man, I was hoping that was just the beer getting to me.	I've installed a shatterproof TV screen and bought a fresh supply of Depends.	I'm officially a Bears fan only during the first three quarters of play.	By alternating drinking battery acid and Jack Daniel's, I've learned to adapt pretty well.
2 What method would you use to stop the Vikings' Adrian Peterson?	Persuade Leo to walk up to him and slap him in the face with a mackerel.	Bait and switch—with our Adrian Peterson.	Put him on the Red Line to nowhere. He'll show up at Soldier Field on Tuesday.	Rapid karate chops to the lower extremities.	I'll show him a Reset Button comic, at least until the ether kicks in.
3 A weekend without a Cubs or Sox loss is like Christmas.	... peace and quiet after a loud, obnoxious concert.	... a Lohan family reunion without cops, tasers and spontaneous AA meetings.	... me leaving Duffy's empty-handed.	... a total shock, but only until I realize it's October.
4 Are you buying what the Blackhawks are selling?	Nope because I already have a barely used Denis Savard office chair.	Buy? They should really just give it away.	I've never really been able to warm up to ice hockey.	Crushing disappointment? Yes. Not as potent as in baseball, but still satisfying.	No, my bootleg DVD collection is full enough, thank you.
5 The answer: "Drew Gooden's beard, Joakim Noah's hair." What's the question?	Name two things that tickle Kirk Hinrich on every single pick-and-roll.	Name two things that make you go "eww."	What are two things that look better than Kirk Hinrich's haircut?	What are your top two picks for this year's fantasy facial hair league?	What two things would you need to complete your "Homeless Guy" costume?



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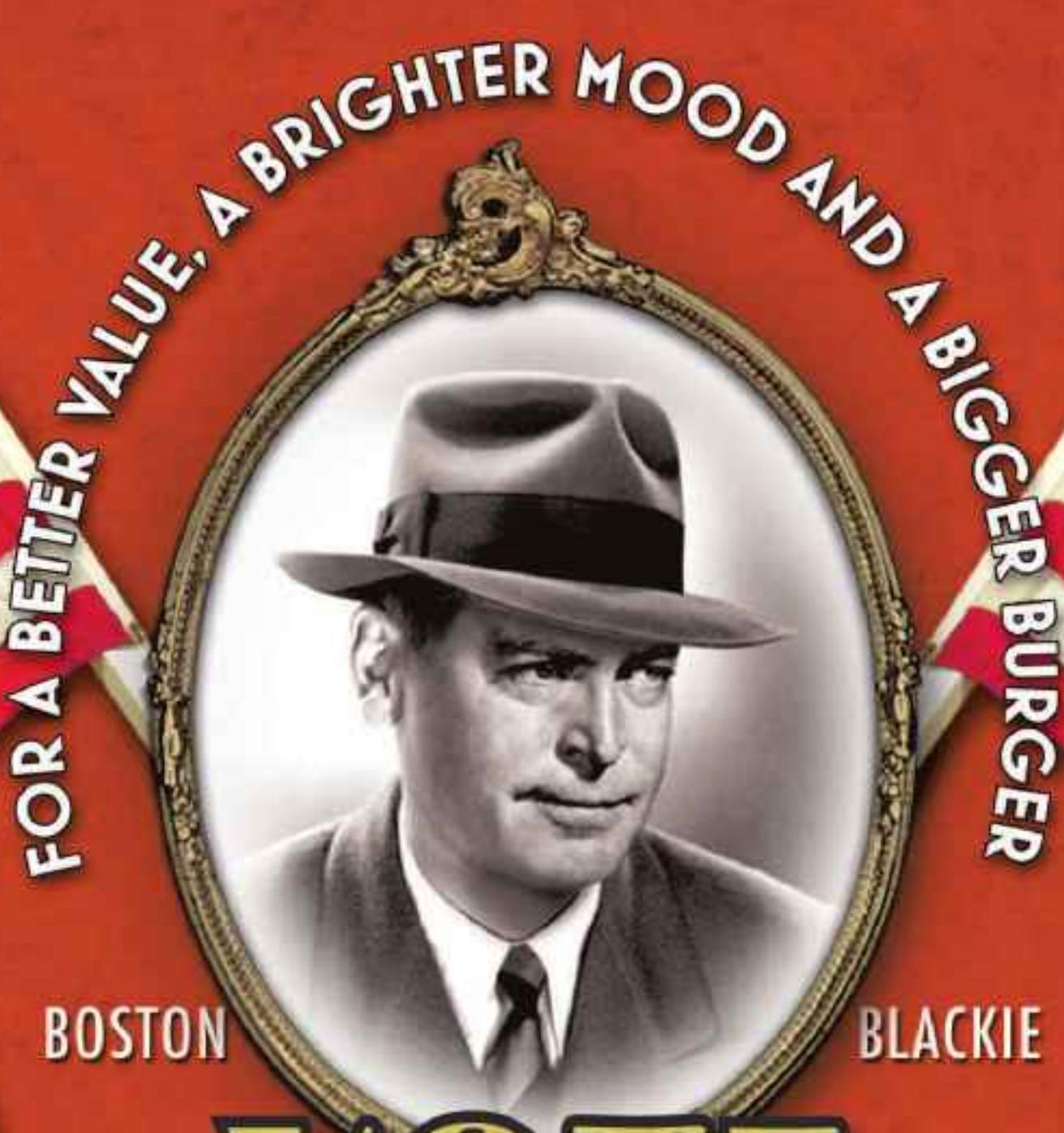
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HOMETOWN HITS



The Cubs are intent on keeping General Manager Jim Hendry, despite the ongoing uncertainty about the sale of their franchise. According to baseball sources, Cubs Chairman Crane Kenney recently declined to give the Seattle Mariners permission to talk to Hendry about their vacant GM position.



Ben Gordon participated in the Bulls' non-contact practice Thursday, his first action since he left practice Oct. 6 early because of a jammed right toe he suffered after tripping over furniture at his house.

Next game
vs. Utah (at Assembly Hall in Champaign)

Friday: 7:30 p.m.



Next game
at Quad City

Friday: 7 p.m.

AT THE BUZZER

ALCS | Boston 8, Tampa Bay 7

Rays lead series 3-2.

» Trailing 7-0 through 6 innings, the Red Sox storm back to win in the bottom of the ninth.

Super Bowl \$XLIII

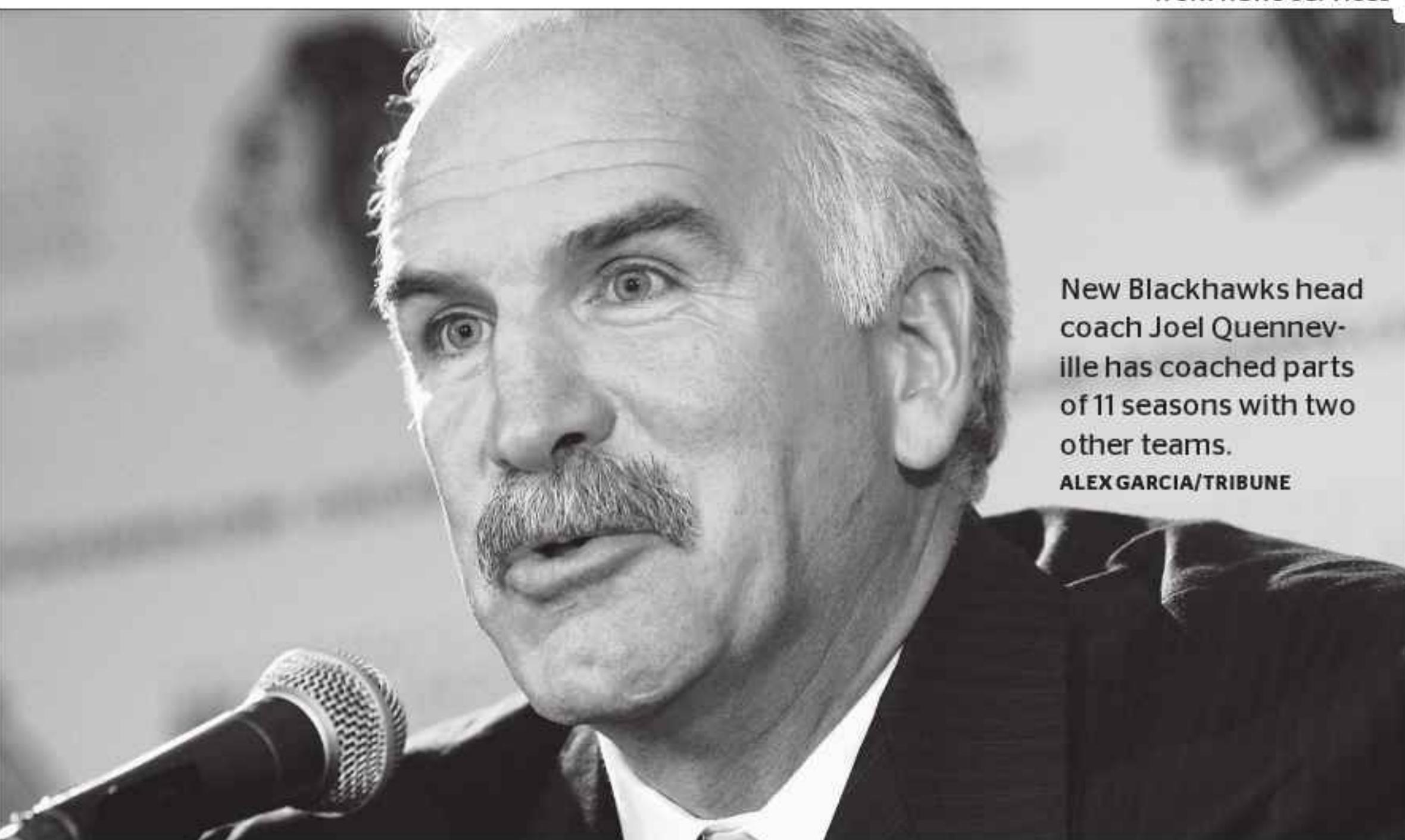
The official price of Super Bowl tickets will reach \$1,000 for the first time this season. The NFL confirmed Thursday that 25 percent of the tickets for the Feb. 1 game in Tampa will be priced at \$1,000. It also will drop the price of 1,000 tickets by \$200 to \$500.



Knight

New dawn for Knight?

Bob Knight, the winningest men's basketball coach in NCAA Division I history, left the door ajar to a return to coaching during a wide-ranging TV interview Wednesday. "I got nothing else to do. It would just depend on the circumstances," the former Army, Indiana and Texas Tech coach told Indianapolis public TV station WFYI.



New Blackhawks head coach Joel Quenneville has coached parts of 11 seasons with two other teams.

ALEX GARCIA/TRIBUNE

WELCOME TO QUENNEVILLE

Denis Savard was fired as coach of the Blackhawks on Thursday after four games and hours after the team's first win of the season. He was replaced by team scout Joel Quenneville, who has coached two other NHL clubs.

The Blackhawks, who have missed the playoffs nine of the past 10 seasons, improved to 1-2-1 after a 4-1 win at the United Center over Phoenix on Wednesday night.

"First and foremost, I'm proud of what we accomplished last year with the young kids in the lineup. I hope for them to do well," Savard told The Associated Press by phone. "It's a tough day, no question. I'm hurt. I worked hard to do the best I could to get the team on its way to the Stanley Cup."

The combination of a slow start and a big public relations push may have led to Savard's abrupt ouster.

"This was an extremely hard day for this organization and for me personally," General Manager Dale Tallon said in a statement. "Denis is forever a part of our organization."

Quenneville has coached the St. Louis Blues

QUENNEVILLE'S COACHING RECORD

Year	Team	W	L	T	OL
1996-97	A St. Louis	18	15	7	0
1997-98	B St. Louis	45	29	8	0
1998-99	B St. Louis	37	32	13	0
1999-00	A St. Louis	51	19	11	1
2000-01	C St. Louis	43	22	12	5
2001-02	B St. Louis	43	27	8	4
2002-03	A St. Louis	41	24	11	6
2003-04	C St. Louis	29	23	7	2
2005-06	B Colorado	43	30	0	9
2006-07	D Colorado	44	31	0	7
2007-08	B Colorado	44	31	0	7
TOTALS		438	283	77	41

A lost in Round 1 of playoffs; B lost in Round 2; C lost in Round 3; D did not make playoffs

and Colorado Avalanche. He has a 438-283-118 record in parts of 11 seasons. He was signed by the Blackhawks as a pro scout in September.

Savard, a Hall of Fame player, became coach in November 2006.



watch dog

WHIZZER
redeyesports
@tribune.com

Denis Savard, adios.

It'll be strange watching the few Blackhawks games that are televised without you overseeing the team. Actually, it won't be strange at all, I was just trying to be nice.

But if you want nice, you've come to the wrong place.

NBA PRESEASON

Bulls vs. Utah

7:30 p.m., CSN
If the Bulls play a preseason game against the Jazz in Champaign, will anyone be there to see it?

Washington vs. New Orleans

2:30 p.m., ESPN
Classic
Another fail for the NBA: A preseason game on ESPN Classic. Not.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Hawaii at Boise State

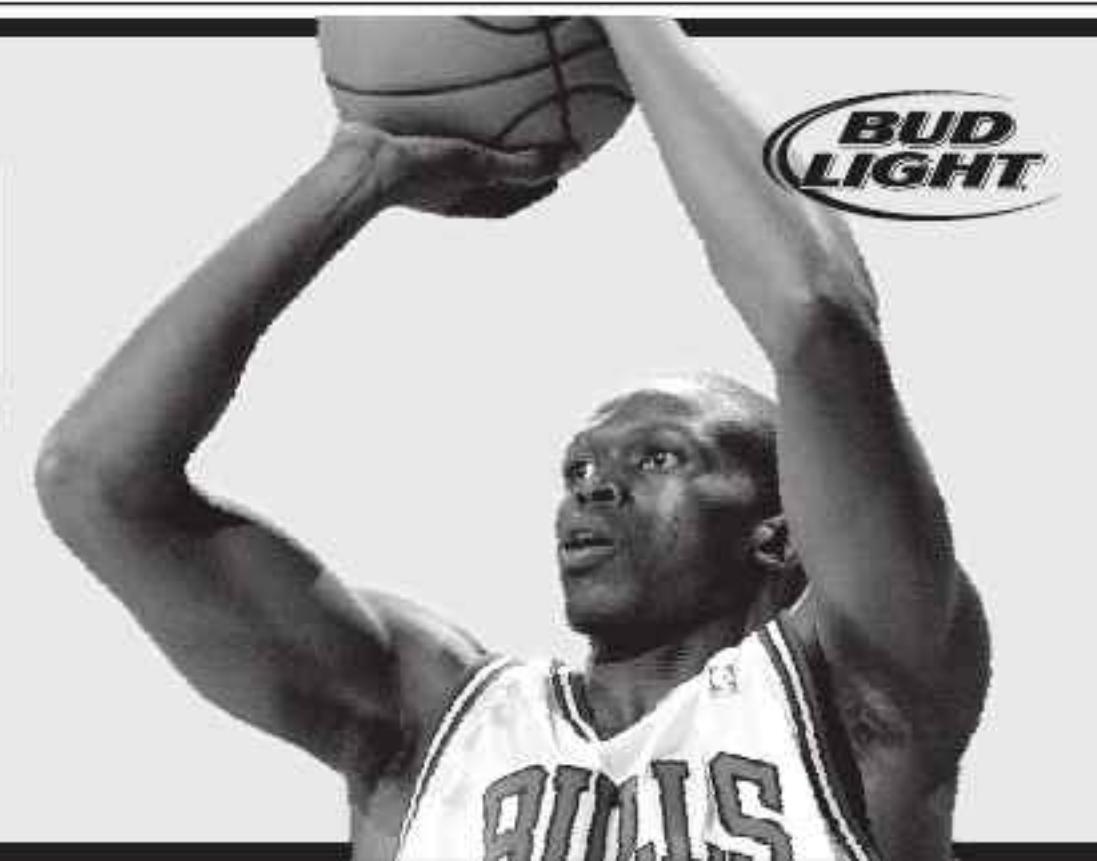
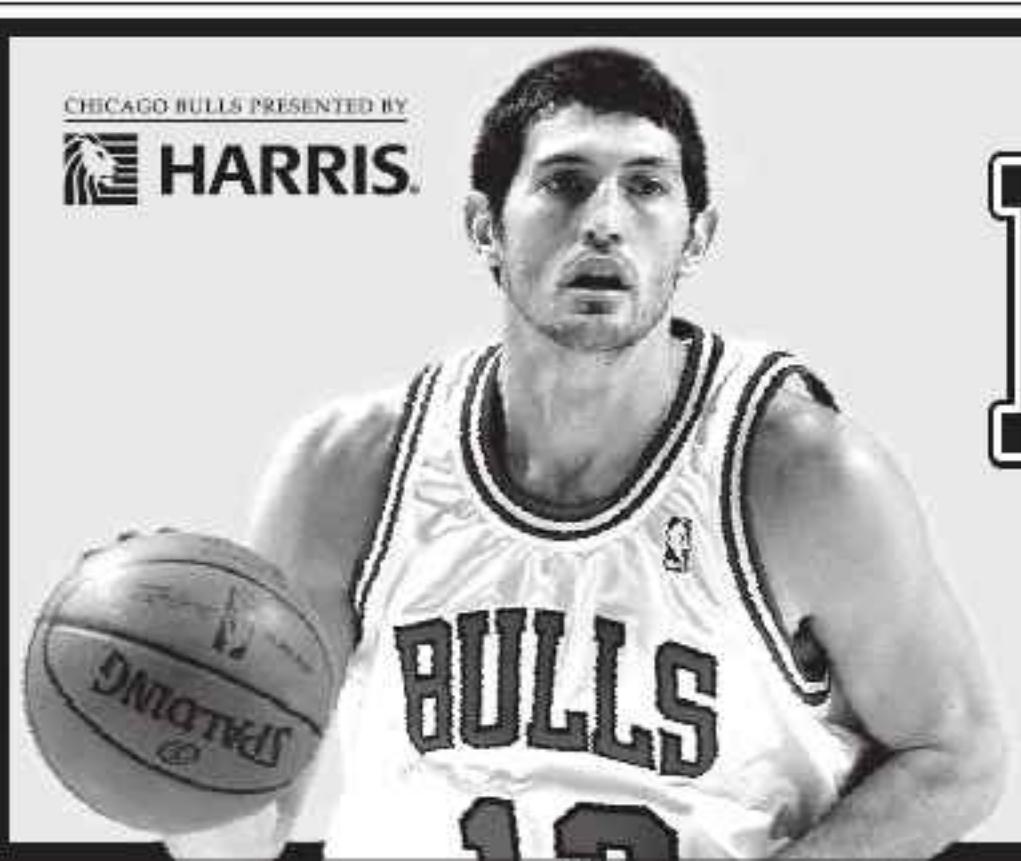
7 p.m., ESPN
Love that blue turf the Broncos play on, but it looks funky on TV.

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10/24	1	NL Hold-em begins @ Noon	\$345
10/25	2	NL Hold-em begins @ Noon	\$555
10/26	3	NL Hold-em begins @ Noon	\$1,100
10/26	4	Ladies Event begins @ 3 pm	\$235
10/27	5	NL Hold-em begins @ Noon	\$555
10/27	6	PLO w/\$100 rebuys begins @ 3 pm	\$235
10/28	7	NL Hold-em begins @ Noon	\$775
10/28	8	H.O.R.S.E. begins @ 3 pm	\$345
10/29	9	NL Hold-em begins @ Noon	\$2,100
10/29	10	Omaha 8 or Better begins @ 3 pm	\$345
10/30		Mega Satellite begins @ Noon	\$555
10/30		Mega Satellite begins @ 3 pm	\$555
10/30		Mega Satellite begins @ 7 pm	\$555
10/31	11	MAIN EVENT NL Hold-em begins @ Noon	\$5,150
11/1	12	NL Hold-em begins @ Noon	\$555
11/2	13	NL Hold-em begins @ Noon	\$345
11/2		Main Event Final Table begins @ TBD	



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metromix



Art by Around the Coyote artists
Gabriel Mejia
and MunKyung Chung



BEST OF THE REST

Baggo benefit

Bag bucks for charity at the **B.A.G.S. (Bars Against Gun Shootings) Cornhole Tournament**. Teams of two vie for \$500 in the outdoor bags contest. Fuel up with pizza, a costume contest, giveaways and raffle prizes. An optional drink package (\$15) includes drafts and select cocktails. Register at noon; play at 1 p.m. Saturday. \$30-\$45 per person. Proceeds benefit a fund supporting the investigation of the late Jason Mueller's death. Uncle Fatty's, 2833 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-477-3661. Registration: barsagainstgunshootings.com

PARTY PICKS

Shuck it up

Fall festivals get a final hurrah at **Royster with the Oyster**. A whopping 10,000 oysters on the half shell are on tap at the 20th annual outdoor tent party (get six for \$5), along with live blues and \$5 Goose Island drafts. Watch six finalists from Chicago, New England and the West Coast compete for \$1,000 in the "slurp-o-rama" championship (7 p.m.). Lin Brehmer of WXRT (93.1-FM) hosts. 3 p.m. Friday. \$10; food and drink prices vary. Outside Shaw's Crab House, 21 E. Hubbard St. 312-527-2722.

Blarney break

It's never too early to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, so roll up your sleeves and down a \$3 pint of green beer at **St. Practice Day**. Celtic rockers The Chancy Brothers get you

in the mood (8 p.m.), along with \$5 Guinness and Bass drafts. Also, score T-shirts and bus tickets to the centerpiece of local Irish pride, the South Side Irish Parade (March 8). 8 p.m. Friday. No cover. Mahoney's Pub & Grille, 551 N. Ogden Ave. 312-733-2121.

Feline frenzy

Coughing up a good time at the **Hair Ball** means watching models strut the catwalk in makeup, tresses and wardrobes inspired by the theme "cats in space." The inaugural benefit includes one cocktail, vegetarian appetizers, a DJ, a silent auction and cat-themed door prizes. 7 p.m. Saturday. \$35. Proceeds benefit Tree House Humane Society. Spin, 800 W. Belmont Ave. 773-784-5488 ext. 238. Tickets: treehouseanimals.org

Midnight special

Get in gear for Halloween-literally—at the **Midnight Marauders October Ride**. The self-described "drinking club with a biking problem" leads a creepy 10-mile midnight ride past five North Side graveyards and allegedly haunted sites. Stops may include the Biograph Theatre, Graceland Cemetery and the Couch mausoleum (directly behind the Chicago History Museum). Bring a helmet, lights and money for post-ride drinks. Costumes encouraged. Meet at 11:30 p.m. Saturday; ride at midnight. Free. Handlebar, 2311 W. North Ave. 773-209-0088.

Apple pickin'

Autumn's sweet as pie at the **Fourth Annual Bucktown Apple Pie Contest**. Sample slices from 90 local amateur bakers (\$2 per taste) while local chefs Gale Gand (Tru), Stephanie Izard ("Top Chef") and others rate their taste, texture and appearance. Also features a silent auction, a \$1,000 cash raffle (\$25 per ticket) and live music by Tangleweed. 2 p.m. Sunday. Free. Holstein Park Fieldhouse, 2200 N. Oakley Ave. Questions: martharing@mac.com

Peep show

Spy some art in the West Loop, shuck it up at Shaw's tent party and more

PICK OF THE WEEK

weekend best bets

By Beth Geraci

METROMIX.COM

Wild at art

Around the Coyote Fall Arts

Festival moves to new, all-under-one-roof digs in the West Loop after a 19-year stint in Wicker Park, but maintains its dedication to emerging talent. Visual artists, filmmakers, musicians,

video hounds and performance artists from Chicago and across the nation—155 in all—comprise the city's largest annual art event, including painters Lauren Berke (art

pictured left) and Nikki Hollander (right), chamber group Tomorrow Music Orchestra (Friday), and actors from the Playground Improv Theater (Saturday and Sunday). Friday's opening reception includes a weekend pass, Peroni bottles and a chance to meet the artists. 6 p.m. Friday; noon Saturday and Sunday. \$10 daily pass; \$15 weekend pass; \$40 for opening night. Journeymen Plumber's Hall, 1340 W. Washington Blvd. 773-304-6832. Tickets: going.com/aroundthecoyote



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FILE FOR METROMIX

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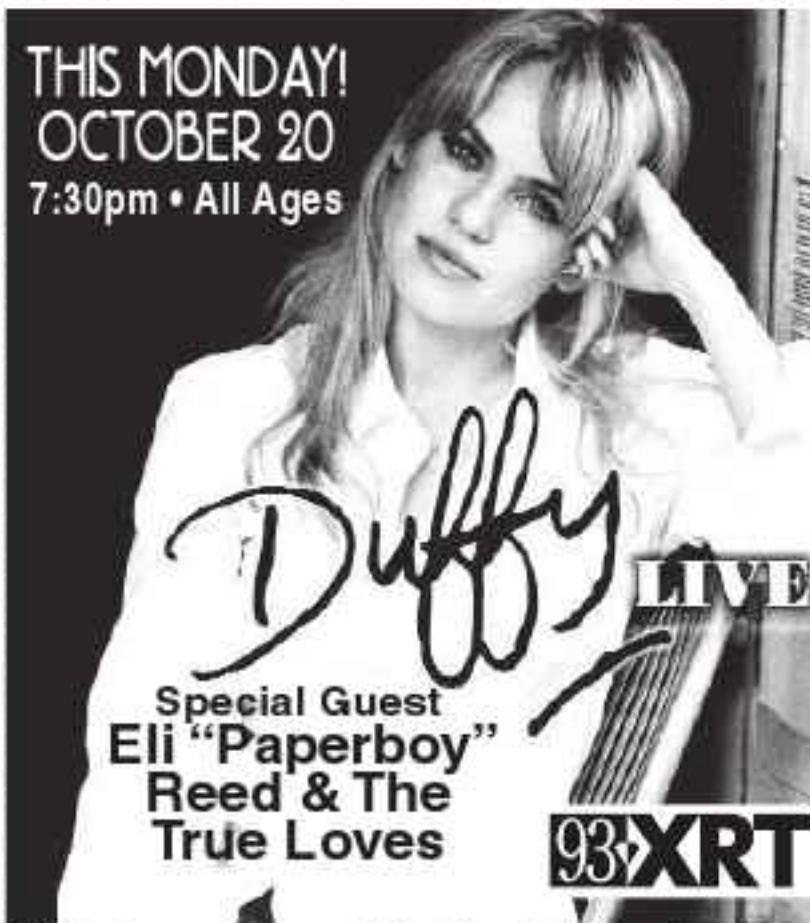
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OF MONTREAL

Special Guest
Sinkane

OCTOBER 27

7:00pm • All Ages





Sizzling sounds

Kick off the weekend with drinks and beats during Release Fridays at Sound-Bar.

FILE FOR METROMIX

ADDICTION SPORTS BAR AND GRILL
\$4 Harp, Bass and Guinness bottles, \$5 glasses of wine; 1023 W. Lake St., Chicago, 312-421-8845.

BETWEEN BOUTIQUE CAFE AND LOUNGE
\$25 single-malt Scotch flights, \$30 tequila flights, \$30 trios (6-7 p.m.); 1324 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-292-0585.

BRIDGET MCNEILL'S
\$2 off nachos, \$3 Corona bottles, \$5 bombs; 420 W. Belmont Ave. 773-248-6654.

CIRCUIT NIGHT CLUB
9 p.m.: The Masquerade Ball. This lesbian-focused party features sets by DJs KT, Dragonfire and Just Beth and performances by five local exotic dancers who also offer \$5 lap dances. Wear a mask and get \$3 off admission. \$10; 3641 N. Halsted St. 773-325-2233.

CROBAR
Poparazzi Fridays. DJs Gus Karas and Alex Rage spin 9 p.m. \$10; 1543 N. Kingsbury St. 312-266-1900.

ENCLAVE
9 p.m.: Sweetest Day with Brody Jenner. Party with the resident heartthrob of "The Hills." Includes cocktails from 9 to 10:30 p.m.

Free before 11 p.m. with RSVP: enclavechicago.com. \$20 after 11 p.m.; 220 W. Chicago Ave. 312-654-0234.

EXCALIBUR
7:30 p.m.: Supernatural Chicago. Explore Chicago's allegedly paranormal past during this interactive one-man show starring necromancer Neil Tobin, performed in the building noted by A&E's "Sightings" as one of the city's most haunted. \$25, includes two drinks. Tickets: supernaturalchicago.com; 632 N. Dearborn St. 312-266-1944.

FEARON'S PUBLIC HOUSE
\$4 Spaten drafts, \$6 Absolut martinis, \$6 pasta dinners; 3001 N. Ashland Ave. 773-248-0990.

FINN MCCOOL'S
Complimentary wing buffet (4-7 p.m.), \$6.99 fish and chips; 15 W. Division St. 312-337-4349.

GASLIGHT BAR AND GRILLE
\$3 SoCo Lime shots, \$5 Sofia champagne cans; 2426 N. Racine Ave. 773-929-7759.

GOOSE ISLAND BREWPUB
\$1 off beers of the day; half-price appetizers (4-6 p.m.); 1800 N. Clybourn Ave. 312-915-0071.

GRAND RIVER
\$5 sandwiches, \$5 martinis, \$3 Heineken/Light and Amstel Light bottles, \$3 SoCo Lime shots; 3032 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-281-9900.

HAMBURGER MARY'S
\$4.50 Fat Tire pints, \$5 Mary's Punch cocktails; 5400 N. Clark St. 773-784-6969.

HAWKEYE'S
\$4 Blue Moon drafts, \$6 Absolut martinis, \$13 Miller Lite buckets; 1458 W. Taylor St. 312-226-3951.

INNJOY
\$4 Heineken, Heineken Light and Amstel Light bottles; 2051 W. Division St. 773-394-2066.

KROLL'S SOUTH LOOP
\$3 Corona, Corona Light and Pacifico bottles, \$4-\$6 Skyy cocktails, \$4 Tezon shots and Kroll's Malibu Punch cocktails, \$6 Tezon margaritas on the rocks; 1736 S. Michigan Ave. 312-235-1400.

MARY'S ATTIC
\$5 slushies, \$2 Jell-O shots, DJs spin; 5400 N. Clark St. 773-784-6969.

O'DONOVAN'S
\$3.50 Budweiser products, \$22 select 36-ounce cocktails, 30 cent wings (4-10 p.m., 10-piece minimum); 2100 W. Irving Park Rd. 773-478-2100.

PURPLE OTTER
\$5 one topping pizzas, \$12 domestic buckets; 2706 N. Ashland Ave. 773-248-3331.

SALUD
\$4 frozen margaritas, DJ John Simmons spins 10 p.m.; 1471 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-235-5577.

SCHOOLYARD TAVERN & GRILL
\$4 Old Style tallboys, \$5 for three fish tacos, \$5 Mad Dog bottles; 3258 N. Southport Ave. 773-528-8226.

SOUND-BAR
Release Friday. DJs Danny Boy, Inphinity, Mark Centennial, Polbeeta, Joseph Durant and Billy the Kid spin. \$20. RSVP: sound-bar.com for reduced admission; 226 W. Ontario St. 312-787-4480.

TOONS BAR AND GRILL
\$4 po' boy sandwiches (11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.), \$3 Heineken, Heineken Lite and Amstel Light bottles, \$5 bombs; 3857 N. Southport Ave. 773-935-1919.

VICTORY LIQUORS
\$3 Kilo Kai cocktails, \$3 Coors and Coors Light bottles, \$5 40-ounce King Cobra bottles, \$5 O bombs, DJs spin '90s hip-hop 10 p.m.; 2610 N. Halsted St. 773-348-5600.



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Recharged

R&B singer Maxwell back after 7-year break

Associated Press

It's hardly unusual for a singer to drop off the musical map. Declining album sales, drug habits, legal woes and other dramas have landed a multitude of chart-toppers on the "Whatever Happened To ..." list.

Yet it is unusual to find someone who voluntarily takes a break from the business—and happily so, with no tabloid fodder behind it. So Maxwell, one of the key voices from R&B's neosoul era, understands why people were so puzzled when he disappeared from the spotlight after releasing his last album, "Now," in 2001.

"The world is so caught up in the 'American Idol' idealistic sort of tendency in regards to just thinking that this whole thing is what everybody wants, but it doesn't help you make a better record," the platinum-selling singer said. "I just wanted to kind of be a regular person for a minute."

Maxwell's fourth CD, "Black Summers' Night," isn't due out until at least February 2009. But he is returning with a new tour, during which he will play to crowds hungry to hear his voice after his long absence.

"I'm amazed. I just did not expect after all this time that people would even care," said the 35-year-old singer.

One of the reasons why Maxwell decided to take a break from the business was so that he could find his validation from somewhere other than the record charts.

Looking there would have given his ego a boost: From the time Maxwell made his debut in 1996, he was a sensation with hits like "Sumthin' Sumthin'," "Fortunate," "Lifetime" and "Ascension (Don't Ever Wonder)." His three studio albums—"Maxwell's Urban Hang Suite," "Embrya" and "Now"—each sold more than 1 million copies.

But Maxwell felt stunted from the media glare.

"People failed to realize that when you're living such a hyper, super reality of a life ... that doesn't bode well for trying to talk about everyday stuff that hopefully you'll connect with people on," he said. "So a lot of my absence was based on just going out to get life experience, you know? Becoming a guy, becoming a man."

So he traveled, hung out with friends, had a couple of long-term romantic relationships and just enjoyed life.

But in an industry where enjoying life is often a euphemism for "can't get arrested," many wondered what was truly behind Maxwell's extended break.

"I'm confident in my intentions and why I'm making music," he said. "I'm not making music because I want to be on your TV screen or the cover of your magazine. I want you to make a baby to something I wrote. ... That's my goal."



"I'm not making music because I want to be on your TV screen or the cover of your magazine."

I want you
to make a baby
to something
I wrote." —MAXWELL

The New Year takes its time getting here

Los Angeles Times

On the long list of indie bands that deserve wider hearing sits The New Year, a mild-mannered group whose songs begin as reflective, melancholy odes and transform into chiming cathedrals of sound.

The group's self-titled new album hit stores recently. It's that rare band whose songs each feel completely realized—which they ought to, since this is only the third record The New Year has released since its inception in 1999.

"I was talking to a Spanish interviewer," singer-songwriter Matt Kadane, 39, said from Ithaca, N.Y., where he works as a history professor. "And he asked, 'Are you detailistic or are you just lazy?'"

The New Year grew out of the critically acclaimed '90s Dallas band Bedhead, which Kadane and his brother Bubba founded. Bedhead has been described as "slo-core," sort of what New Order or Galaxie 500 would sound like if they used no reverb or effects.

The original style, Kadane said, came from playing in a Velvet Underground-inspired experimental band with future Dixie Chick Martie Erwin (later Maguire) on fiddle.

"She very rightly left us for the Dixie Chicks," he said. "We wanted to find a way to produce that sustained tone of the fiddle or viola. The best way we could do that was to combine guitars, to just build chords from three different guitars."

Kadane admits the understated, texture-based formula hasn't changed all that much: "I still feel like the tempos we lock into are the right ones. I never say, 'Bedhead was a slow band. We want this to be a fast band.'"

Despite the supposed slowness, Kadane says, his old band's membership to hard-core label Trance Syndicate taught the bandmates they had to step it up when playing out.

"We've never wanted to be quiet live," Kadane said. "Three guitarists can make a lot of sound, and it feels good to do that."

The New Year

HEATHER WHINNA PHOTO



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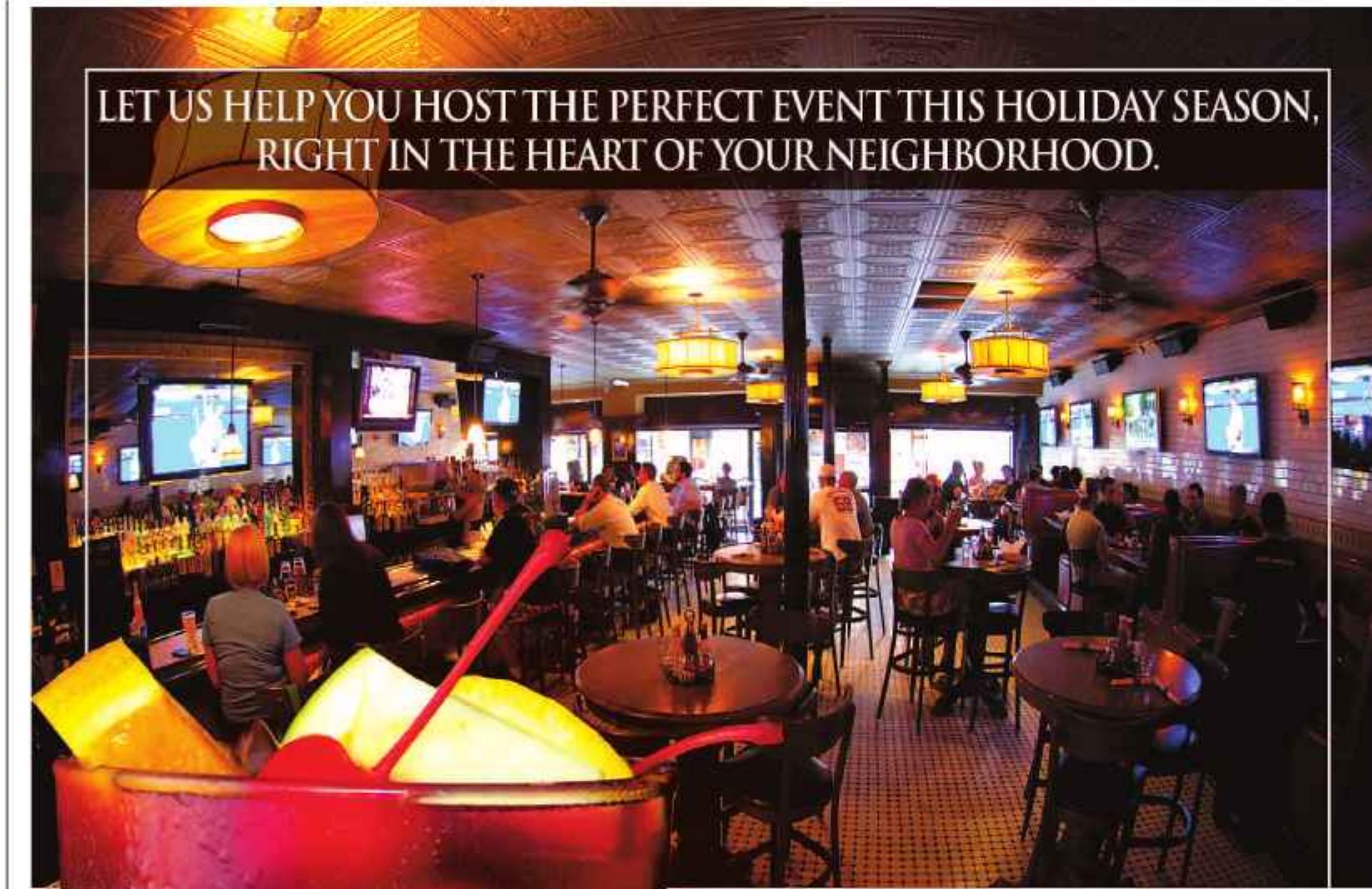


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9 p.m. \$10. Martyrs',
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**ALEJANDRO
ESCOVEDO,
NICHOLAS TREMULIS
ORCHESTRA, THE
SATIN PEACHES**
8 p.m. \$20. Park West,
322 W. Armitage Ave.
312-559-1212.

**AN AESTHETIC
ANAESTHETIC,
DAMIERA, THE ALAYA
CONSCIOUS, JEALD
FINK, HOT COPS,
BEAST FROM SEA**
8:30 p.m. \$9. Elbo
Room, 2871 N. Lincoln
Ave. 773-549-5549.

**CELLARS BLOOM,
DOCTOR, THIS VIRUS
IS SILENCE**
9 p.m. \$7. Underground
Lounge, 952 W.
Newport Ave. 773-327-
2739.

**CHUCK RAGAN,
BEN NICHOLS, TIM
BARRY, SUNDOWNER**
8 p.m. \$15. Reggie's
Rock Club, 2109 S. State
St. 312-949-0120.

**CORY CHISEL
AND THE
WANDERING SONS**
10:30 p.m. \$10.
Schubas, 3159 N.
Southport Ave. 773-525-
2508.

**DEERHOOF,
EXPERIMENTAL
DENTAL SCHOOL,
FLYING**
7 p.m. \$15. Metro, 3730
N. Clark St. 773-549-
0203.

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ALBATROSS, PLASTIC
CRIMEWAVE SOUND**
9 p.m. \$12-\$14. Abbey
Pub, 3420 W. Grace St.
773-478-4408.

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HERZIG, SAMANTHA
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Milwaukee Ave. 773-
489-3160.

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PUNCH, IN THIS
MOMENT,
BURY YOUR DEAD,
ANOTHER BLACK
DAY, TWO TON ANVIL**
8 p.m. \$15. Logan
Square Auditorium,
2539 N. Kedzie Ave.
773-728-6000.

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Theatre, 4746 N.
Racine Ave. 312-559-
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Sheffield Ave. 312-559-
1212.

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been, man?
8 p.m. Sat. \$49.50-
\$79.50. The Chicago
Theatre, 175 N.
State St. 312-559-
1212.

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773-276-3600.

6:30 p.m. Sold out
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Dearborn St. 312-923-
2000.

**PERT NEAR
SANDSTONE**
10 p.m. \$7. Morseland,
1218 W. Morse Ave. 773-
764-8900.

Rock Club, 2109 S. State
St. 312-949-0120.

**IAN MOORE, LOQUAT,
GREYCOATS**
9:30 p.m. \$8-\$10.
Hideout, 1354 W.
Wabansia Ave. 773-227-
4433.

**PLAQUE BRINGER,
WETNURSE,
SMALL TOWN
MURDER, KHANN**
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DANILO PEREZ TRIO
8 and 10 p.m. Cover
varies. Jazz Showcase,
806 S. Plymouth Ct.
312-360-0234.

JIMMY WEBB
7:30 p.m. \$25. Schubas,
3159 N. Southport Ave.
773-525-2508.

THE RESIDENTS
8 p.m. \$30-\$35.
Lakeshore Theater,
3175 N. Broadway. 312-
559-1212.

DAVID WILCOX
8 p.m. \$16-\$20. Old
Town School of Folk
Music, 4544 N. Lincoln
Ave. 773-728-6000.

**K.D. LANG, DUSTIN
O'HALLORAN**
8 p.m. \$39.50-\$75. The
Chicago Theatre, 175 N.
State St. 312-559-1212.

**THE TEXTBOOK
COMMITTEE,**
NINJA GUN
10:45 p.m. \$7. Beat
Kitchen, 2100
W. Belmont Ave.
housecallent.com

ENANITOS VERDES
9 p.m. \$33-\$38. House
of Blues, 329 N.
Dearborn St. 312-923-
2000.

KAL
7:30 and 10 p.m. \$18-
\$20. Old Town School
of Folk Music, 4544 N.
Lincoln Ave. 773-728-
6000.

**THE EXPENDABLES,
REBELUTION, OPM**
5 p.m. \$12-\$14. Reggie's
Rock Club, 2109 S. State
St. 312-949-0120.

**LUCID GROUND,
ECHO SON, MEQQA,
CARPET THIEVES**
8 p.m. \$15. Bottom
Lounge, 1375 W. Lake
St. 312-666-6775.

**THE FALCON, THE
METHADONES, THE
SIDEKICKS, RULE 22**
9:30 p.m. \$10-\$12.
Subterranean,
2011 W. North Ave.
housecallent.com

NOTWIST, DOSH
8 p.m. \$15. Logan
Square Auditorium,
2539 N. Kedzie Ave.
773-728-6000.

**GENGHIS TRON,
TEITH, YIP YIP,
BLACK COBRA**
10:30 p.m. \$10.
Beat Kitchen, 2100
W. Belmont Ave.
housecallent.com

Saturday
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PHOENIX, KRYSYAL
METCALFE**
10 p.m. \$8. Reggie's

»»page 31

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««page 29

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Harris Theater for
Music and Dance in
Millennium Park, 205
E. Randolph Drive. 312-
334-7777.

THE HANDCUFFS,
KILLING THE ENEMY,
JAVELINAS, KELROY
9 p.m. \$8. Double Door,
1572 N. Milwaukee Ave.
773-489-3160.

HORSE IN THE SEA,
SCATTERED TREES,
CHEYENNE

10 p.m. \$8. Schubas,
3159 N. Southport Ave.
773-525-2508.

JIMMY WEBB
7:30 p.m. \$25. Schubas,
3159 N. Southport Ave.
773-525-2508.

MAN MAN,
TIM FITE
5 and 9 p.m. \$15.
Bottom Lounge, 1375
W. Lake St. 312-666-
6775.

OLD CROW
MEDICINE SHOW
8 p.m. \$30. Riviera
Theatre, 4746 N.
Racine Ave. 312-559-
1212.

RED EYED LEGENDS,
HEADACHE CITY,
MOUNTAIN HIGH
9 p.m. \$10. Hideout,
1354 W. Wabansia Ave.
773-227-4433.

STEVE SONGS
11 a.m. \$15. Old Town
School of Folk Music,
4544 N. Lincoln Ave.
773-728-6000.

TERRORFAKT,
PROMETHEUS
BURNING, TONIKOM,
THE GOTHSCILES
9 p.m. \$15-\$17. Abbey
Pub, 3420 W. Grace St.
773-478-4408.

WAX ON RADIO,
DR. MANHATTAN,
THE FELIX CULPA
6 p.m. \$5-\$7. Beat
Kitchen, 2100
W. Belmont Ave.
housecallent.com

WIRE, DISAPPEARS
10 p.m. \$20. Metro,
3730 N. Clark St. 773-
549-0203.

YONDER MOUNTAIN
STRING BAND,

TODD SNIDER
7 p.m. \$25-\$30.
Congress Theatre, 2135
N. Milwaukee Ave. 888-
512-7469.

ZAPPA
PLAYS ZAPPA
8 p.m. \$115-\$145. The
Morse Theatre, 1328
Morse Ave. 312-559-
1212, 773-654-5100.

Sunday

BEARSUIT, CANASTA,
PALE YOUNG
GENTLEMEN,
COLOUR ME POP DJS

8 p.m. \$8. Schubas,
3159 N. Southport Ave.
773-525-2508.

THE BROKEDOWNS
6 p.m. \$10-\$12.
Subterranean,
2011 W. North Ave.
housecallent.com

CAMERA, BIRD ATE
MY DONUT, ELIPSE

8 p.m. Cover varies.
Reggie's Rock Club,
2109 S. State St. 312-
949-0120.

CROOKS AND
CHILDREN,
MICHAEL ZAPRUDER,
STEVE DAWSON

9 p.m. \$8. Double Door,
1572 N. Milwaukee Ave.
773-489-3160.

DEAD C, WOLF EYES
10 p.m. \$15-\$18. Empty
Bottle, 1035 N. Western
Ave. 773-276-3600.

JEFFERSON
STARSHIP
5 p.m. \$40-\$60.
Heartland Cafe, 7000
N. Glenwood Ave. 773-
465-8005.

MATISYAHU,
FLOBOTS,
CHESTER FRENCH
7:30 p.m. \$29. Vic
Theatre, 3145 N.
Sheffield Ave. 312-559-
1212.

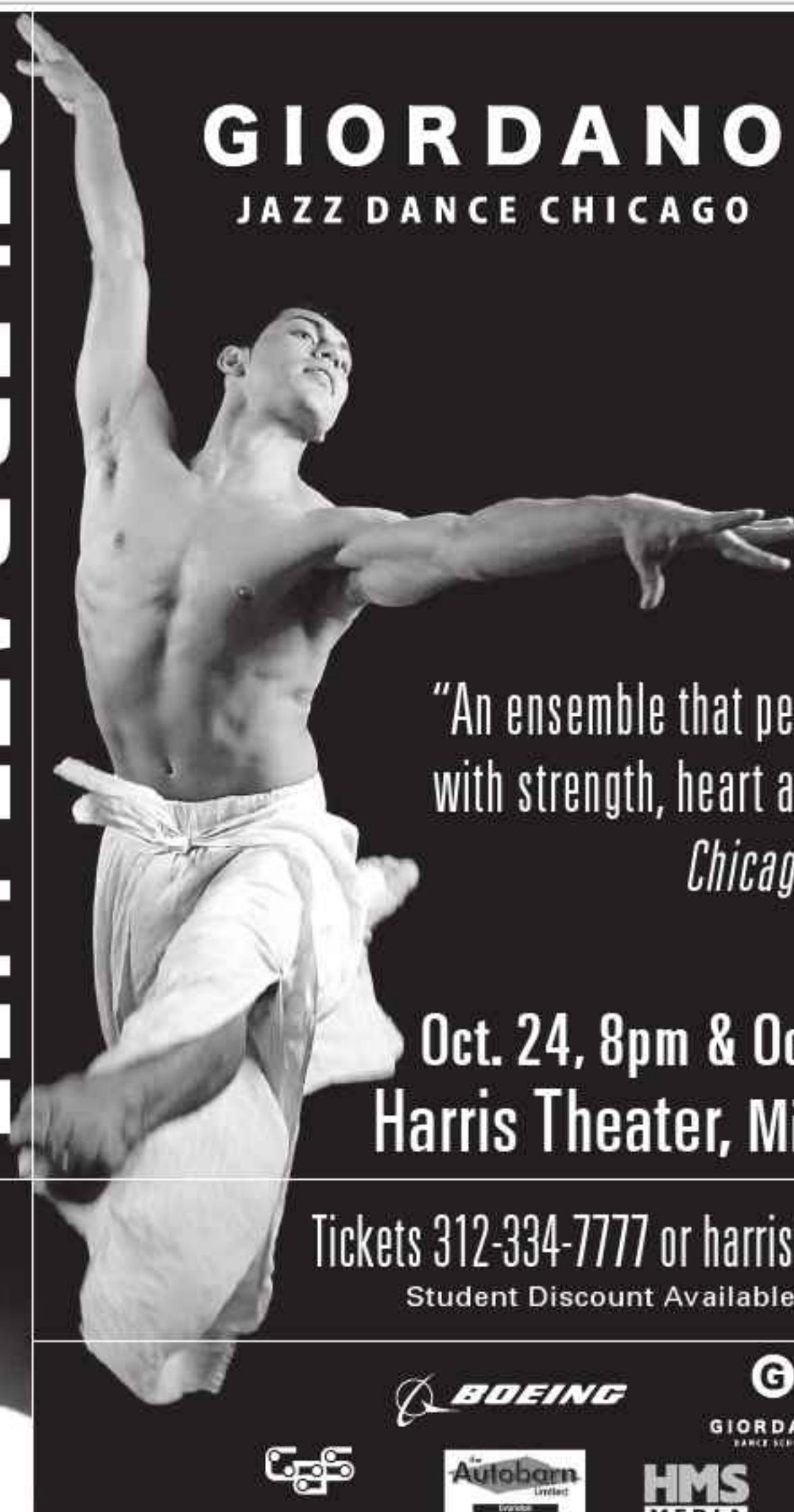
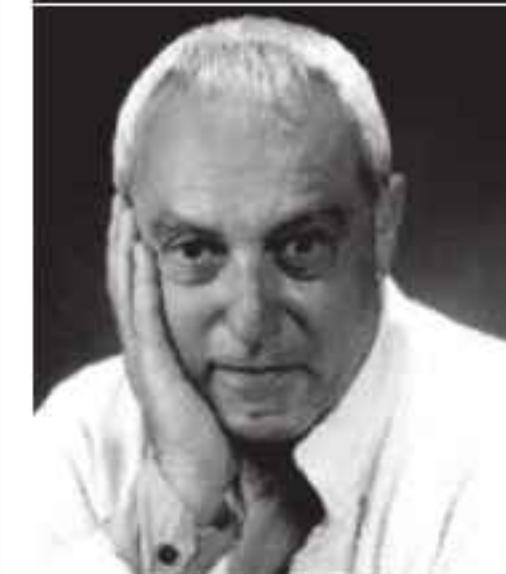
MUSEE MECANIQUE
9 p.m. \$8. Hideout, 1354
W. Wabansia Ave. 773-
227-4433.

OMAR SOSA
7 p.m. \$16-\$20. Old
Town School of Folk
Music, 4544 N. Lincoln
Ave. 773-728-6000.

THE TOADIES,
PEOPLE IN PLANES
9 p.m. \$15. Metro, 3730
N. Clark St. 773-549-
0203.

YNGWIE
MALMSTEEN, ANJ
9 p.m. \$20-\$23. House
of Blues, 329 N.
Dearborn St. 312-923-
2000.

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On sale 10 a.m.
Saturday

Fastball, Saturday,
Nov. 22 (\$10, 21+) at
Joe's Bar.

Lordi, Stolen Babies,
Saturday, Nov. 22 (\$15-
\$17, 17+) at House of
Blues.

Mago de Oz,
Tuesday, Nov. 18 (\$53-
\$60, 17+) at House of
Blues.

Ross Bon and the
Mighty Blue Kings,
Saturday, Dec. 13
(\$15-\$17, 21+) at House
of Blues Back Porch
Stage.

On sale noon
Friday

NOMO, Friday,
Nov. 28 (\$12, 21+) at
Schubas.

Chris Trapper,
Saturday, Nov. 22 (\$12,



Kid Sister

Shawn Colvin,
Sunday, Dec. 14 (\$35,
all ages) at Park West.

Steve Earle,
Tom Morello: The
Nightwatchman,
Saturday, Nov. 22
(\$30, all ages) at Vic
Theatre.

On sale 11 a.m.
Saturday

John Legend,
Thursday, Nov. 20
(\$46-\$71, all ages) at
Chicago Theatre.

On sale noon
Saturday

The Bag You Live
In, Slinky Styles,
Spare Parts, Ben-
Sity, Midwest Hype,
Friday, Jan. 2 (\$5, 21+)
at Double Door.

Colette, Lady D,
Brenda D, Saturday,
Dec. 27 (\$12, 21+) at
Smart Bar.

Kid Sister,
Wednesday, Nov. 26
(\$16, all ages) at Metro.

Kings X, Tuesday,
Dec. 9 (\$20, 21+) at
Double Door.

Lucky Boys
Confusion, Friday,
Dec. 26 (\$17.50-\$20,
18+), Saturday, Dec. 27
(\$17.50-\$20, all ages)
at Metro.

The Tossers, Friday,
Dec. 12 (\$13-\$15, 21+) at
Double Door.

On sale now

Manchester
Orchestra, Dead
Confederate, Kevin
Devine, All Get
Out, Wednesday,
Dec. 3 (\$11-\$13, 17+) at
Subterranean.

My Morning Jacket,
Saturday, Dec. 27,
Sunday, Dec. 28
(\$39.50, all ages) at
Chicago Theatre.

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pop

Role call

As the southern hip-hop icon grows older, he's taking his acting to a whole new level

Los Angeles Times

It's hard to get taken seriously if your name is Ludacris. That's why the rap star, following the path of Ice Cube, Andre 3000 and 50 Cent, is checking his stage name at the door as he pursues a second career as a Hollywood actor.

"This is a different business, and I do want to be taken seriously, so it's back to being Chris Bridges," said the 31-year-old whose name appears in the credits of two films in October, "RocknRolla" and "Max Payne," opening Friday.

The Atlanta-based rapper's sixth album, "Theater of the Mind," drops Tuesday, but the three-time Grammy winner said his priority is learning the rhyme and reason of Hollywood.

"I can see a point where acting is my full-time job, really," Bridges said. "I will always be involved in music, but it may be more behind the scenes, as a producer, I will always do that. But when I look at 10 years from now, I don't think rapping is necessarily what I want to do when I'm in my 40s. My focus is film."

"Max Payne" has Bridges playing opposite Mark Wahlberg, who also started his career in music. Bridges jumped at the chance to play Jim Bravura, a calculating internal affairs officer. The film is an adaptation of the video game. The film "has the game as a loose blueprint," Bridges said, but it goes well beyond it in telling the nihilistic tale of DEA agent Payne (Wahlberg), who is on a blood quest after his family is murdered.

In the video game, Bravura was an aging white lawman, but "Max Payne" director John Moore said he wanted to take the role to a different place. Why? Partly because it let him work with Bridges, whom the filmmaker had tried to cast in the 2004 film "Flight of the Phoenix."

"I wanted to get him then, but Chris is a pretty busy guy," Moore said. "If you look at the films he's done so far, he really catches your eye in all of them. There's nothing contrived about his performances."

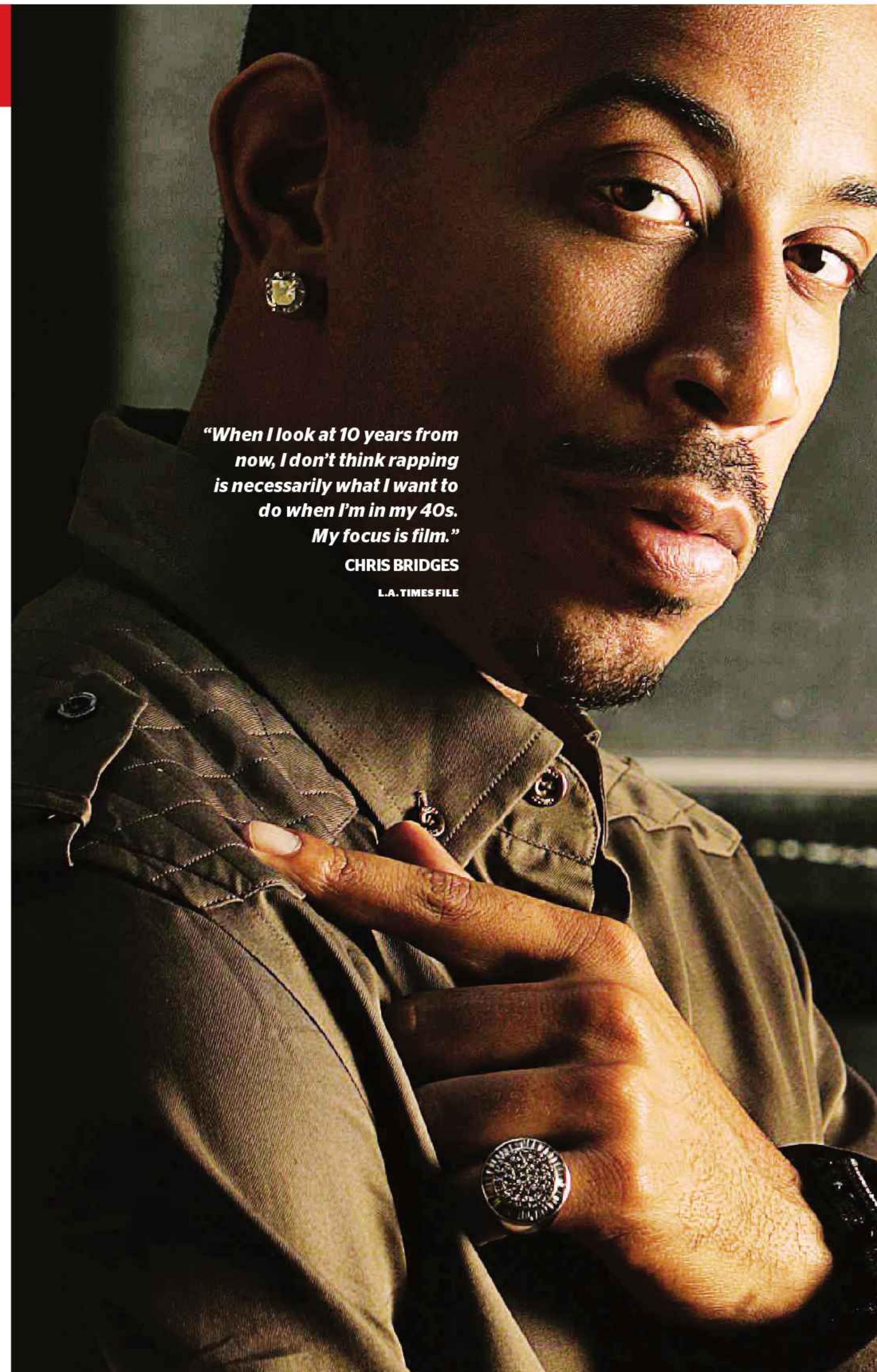
Rap stars often end up portraying criminals on screen, Bridges said, so he is happy to have gotten the role.

"I feel like I'm moving forward in a strong way," he said. "I'm really ready to prove myself and move to the next level."

"When I look at 10 years from now, I don't think rapping is necessarily what I want to do when I'm in my 40s. My focus is film."

CHRIS BRIDGES

L.A. TIMES FILE





He's the actor and he's the rapper, for now

By Matt Pais

REDEYE

To know how Mark Wahlberg feels about his rapping days, you need only ask his "Max Payne" co-star Chris Bridges who would win a rap battle between the two of them.

"He doesn't even consider himself a rapper right now," said Bridges, who also is concentrating his creative efforts on acting these days.

"No. No," Wahlberg said. "Hands down, Chris got me."

The man formerly known as Marky Mark and the rapper still called Ludacris—when he's not acting—play characters at odds in "Max Payne," the stylish

MORE 'PAYNE'

» What are these rappers' real names? Go to redeyechicago.com/rappers.
 » Milas Kunis shoots up screen as sexy assassin. **Page 36**
 » Matt Pais gives "Max Payne" 2.5 stars. Go to metromix.com.

action flick that centers on a cold case cop who wants to avenge the murder of his wife and child. The video game-based film offers little that you see in rap videos—no laughs, no parties and no sex with babes at the bar. Just justice, vengeance and violence.

Bridges plays Internal Affairs Lt. Jim Bravura, who treats Wahlberg's Max as a suspect but doesn't let suspicions stand in the way of hunting for the truth.

During an interview at the Four Seasons Hotel, RedEye talked to Wahlberg, 37, and Bridges, 31, about acting vs. rapping, what it means to be a sex symbol and, yes, the slim chances of a Funky Bunch reunion.



"Hell would have to freeze over. The market would have to crash another 50,000 points."

MARK WAHLBERG

On what it would take for him to make a musical comeback as Marky Mark

MW: He's ... the only one who is very good at both in a real respected way. Will Smith is the biggest star in the world. He's a fantastic actor and he was a good rapper, but I don't think he was a great rapper. And I think [Chris] has the potential to do both.

Mark, how do you compare your skills?

MW: I'm the best actor alive, period! [Laughs.] It don't matter about the rapping. I used to be pretty damn good, but that's [a long time ago].

What goes through your head when you watch your first videos?

MW: A little cringing.

[Laughs.] I like to look to the future and not dwell on the past.

Well, your brother Donnie's back with New Kids on the Block. What would have to happen to get Marky Mark and the Funky Bunch back together?

MW: Hell would have to freeze over. The market would have to crash another 50,000 points.

You never know these days...

MW: Someone would have to chop my left leg off. No, you know what? It's just not in the cards for me. But I wish them the best.

MARKY MARK VS. LUDACRIS

Just beyond the music

Mark Wahlberg and Chris Bridges have ventured beyond their musical beginnings. Take a look.

Member of Marky Mark and the Funky Bunch, he scored a hit with the album "Music for the People" thanks to the song "Good Vibrations." The group's second album, "You Gotta Believe," flopped.

THE RAPPER

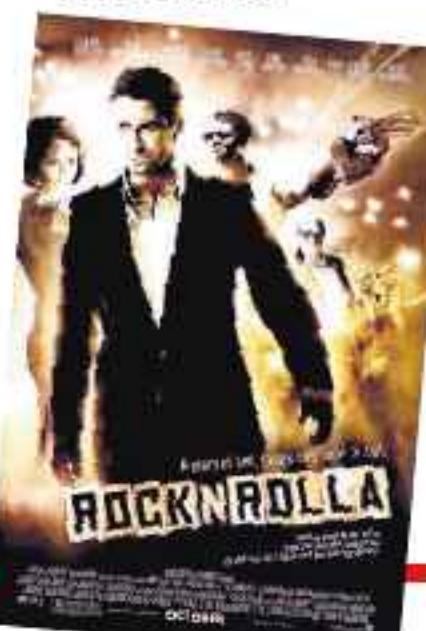
Five albums; three Grammys; "Theater of the Mind," drops Tuesday



Oscar nominee for "The Departed;" other films include his first movie role in "Renaissance Man" (1994), "The Happening," "Invincible," "Boogie Nights," "Four Brothers," "The Italian Job" and the upcoming "The Lovely Bones" and "The Brazilian Job."

THE ACTOR

"2 Fast 2 Furious," "Crash," "Hustle & Flow," "Fred Claus," TV's "Law & Order," "RocknRolla" (Oct. 31), next year's "The Game"



Producer of TV's "Entourage" and other TV shows and films; former Calvin Klein underwear model

ODDS & ENDS

A TV show on TLC, a Thai restaurant in his hometown, his own record label, a hosting gig for XM satellite radio, a new urban culture Web site called myghetto.com

THE WINNER: DRAW

As far ahead of the game as Ludacris is behind the mic, Wahlberg owns the big and small screen here. We see this one staying deadlocked, unless Marky Mark makes a comeback. In that case, we'd be all Luda.

Fair enough. Bravura has a close eye on Max. If you two really were investigating each other, what would you try to find out?

CLB: I already asked a series of questions to try and find out how big his house was and how many acres he has. So I'd be trying to find out about his gyms so I could ... duplicate the same things in my house.

MW: Mine is more scientific. I'm trying to figure out how long those earlobes are gonna hold up with those earrings before they start wiggling against his shoulders.

Chris, how do you compare your rapping skills to your acting skills?

CLB: I think they're very similar. Very versatile.

"One minute I feel fine, and the next I'm covered in sweat."

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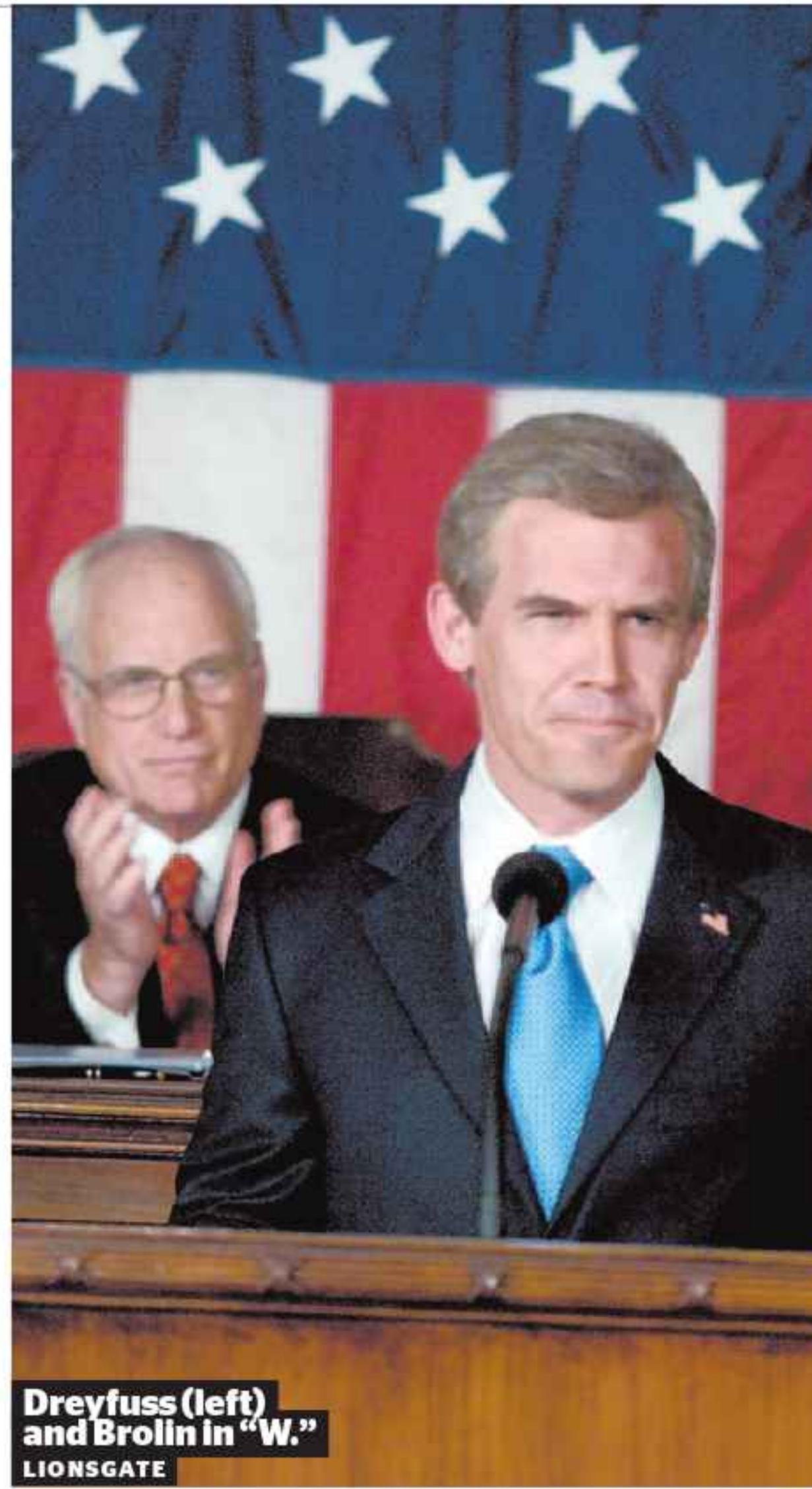
"[W.] paints Bush not as an incompetent boob but rather as a charming fool who just wanted to impress his dad and bit off more than he could chew."

W. (PG-13)

Ambitious yet reckless C-student George W. Bush (Josh Brolin) rises from Yale frat boy to Texas governor to a president who favors instinct over info. The chronology jumps from the late '60s through the early '00s, and stars a lot of actors who look like the real people they play but avoid dead-on impressions, apparently so as not to come off as mockery.

THE BUZZ: "W." is far from unbiased, but rather than skewering the administration "Daily Show"-style, the movie paints Bush not as an incompetent boob but rather as a charming fool who just wanted to impress his dad and bit off more than he could chew.

THE VERDICT: What is the point? The film covers only the well-documented, Iraq-related bits of Bush's presidency—questionable intelligence, misguided strategy, etc.—while adding no sense of what it's like to be W. or live in his country. Judging the performances also is a bit like judging Halloween costumes—votes go to Brolin and Richard Dreyfuss as Dick Cheney for nailing mannerisms. "W." just rolls along with the promise of something only to wind up with nothing controversial nor sympathetic.

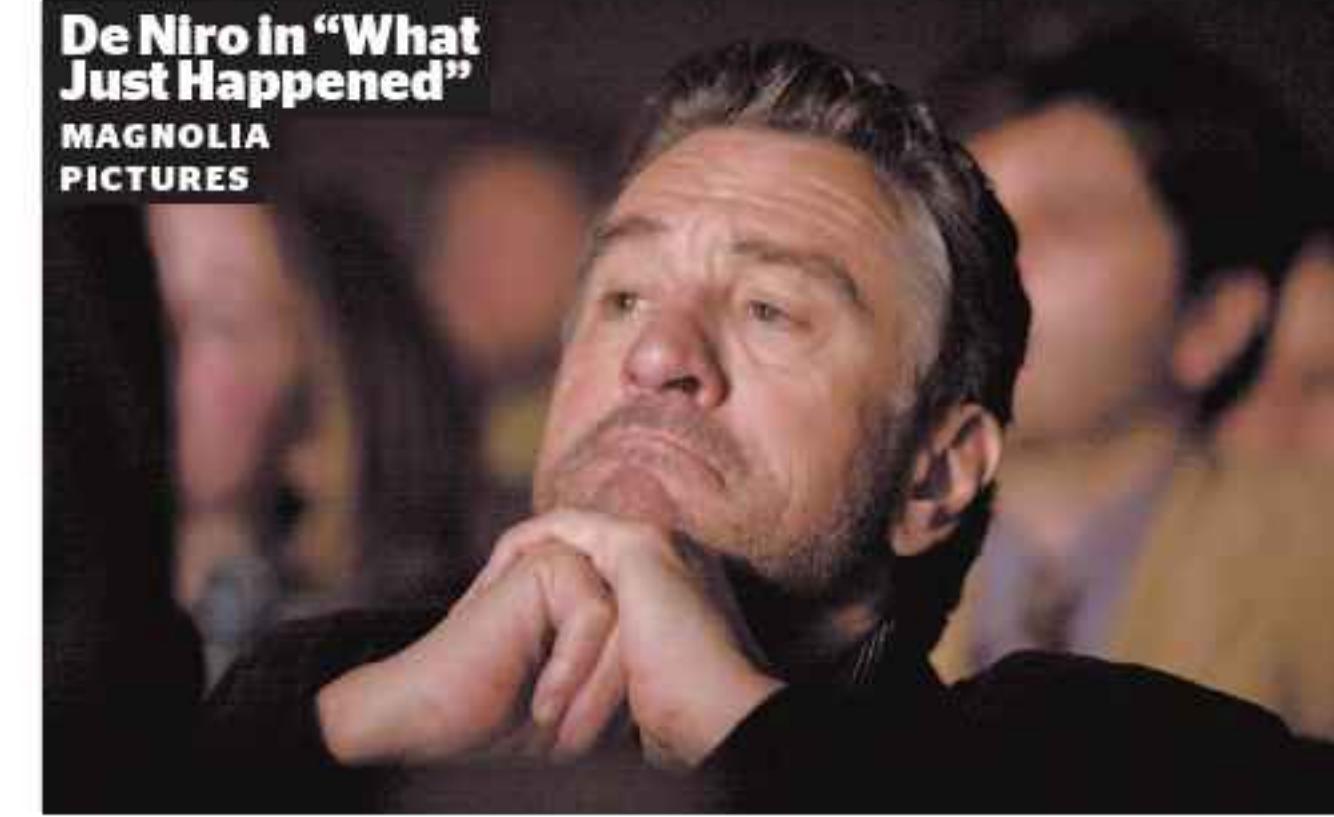


What Just Happened (R)

Hollywood producer Ben (Robert De Niro) has a career to save with two movies: a violent Sean Penn thriller whose director (Michael Wincott) insists a dog must get shot at the end, and a flick that can't even start filming until Bruce Willis agrees to shave his beard. If time allows, Ben also hopes to save the relationship with his ex-wife (Robin Wright).

THE BUZZ: Here's hoping "What Just Happened," adapted by Art Linson from his novel, has the bite of director Barry Levinson's older stuff like "Wag the Dog."

THE VERDICT: De Niro isn't sleepwalking the way he did in "Righteous Kill," but he still seems out of practice when it comes to playing someone whose mind is pulled in multiple directions. By poking rather than stabbing at Tinseltown, the movie looks at this duplicitous, cutthroat world in a superficial, common-knowledge manner.



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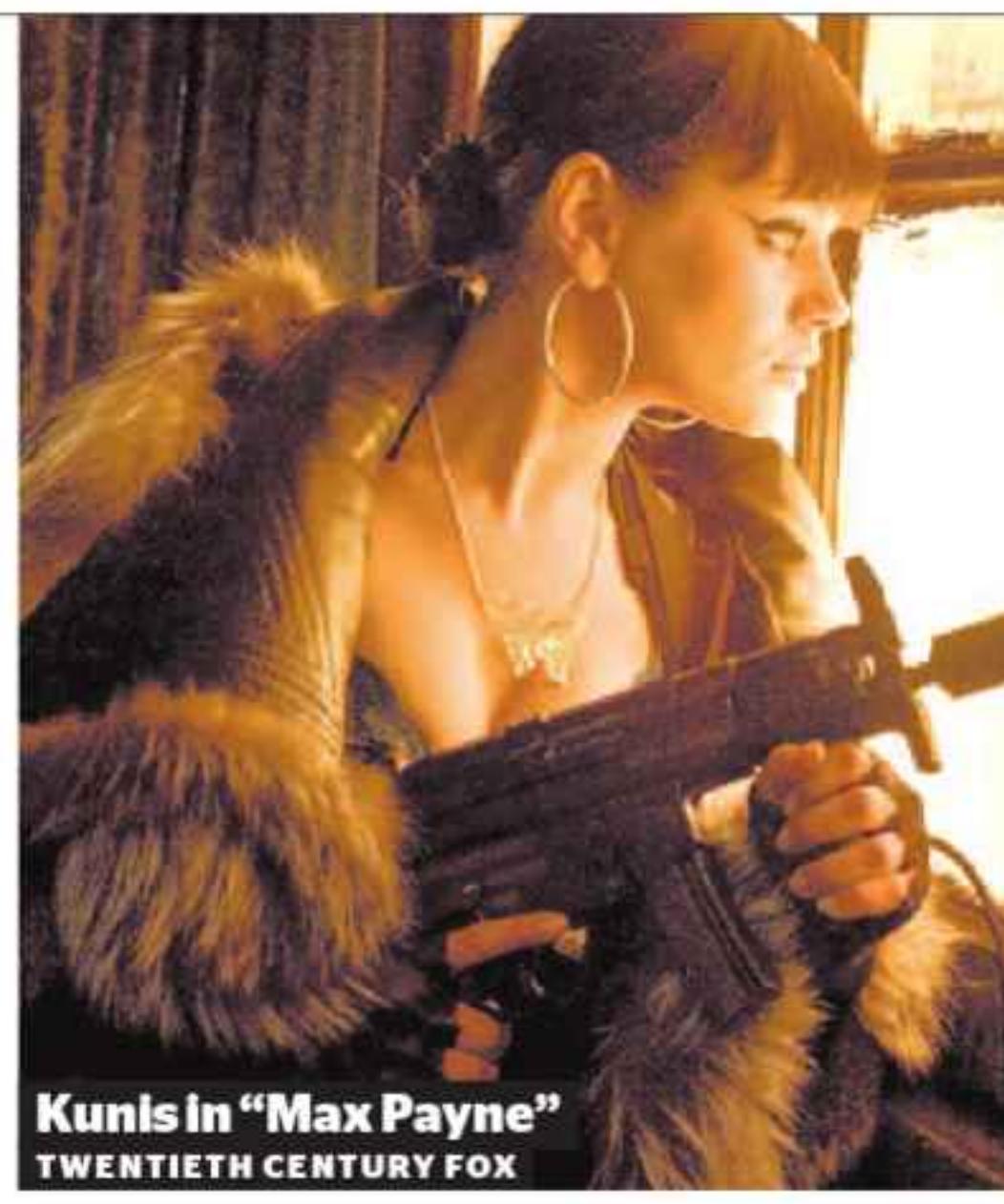


Mila to the 'Max'

Los Angeles Daily News

Mila Kunis may be best known for the sitcom "That '70s Show," but don't look for laughs in her latest movie, the dark, action-packed "Max Payne." The 25-year-old actress plays a hard-nosed Russian mobsterette who helps Mark Wahlberg's New York cop, Max Payne, solve the mystery of his family's murders.

"Max Payne" didn't offer much to chuckle about, but Kunis did get to say some lines in her native Russian. Kunis, who moved to the U.S. from the Ukraine at age 7, talked about the film.



Kunis in "Max Payne"
TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

Were you familiar with the Max Payne video games?

I had played it eight years ago when it first came out. I wasn't very good at it. I barely finished the first couple of levels.

Was it fun to play a humorless Russian tough gal? You've done mostly comedy.

Most people do associate me with either "70s" or "Family Guy" or, now, "Sarah Marshall." But I don't think this is very different. It's just holding a gun in a leather bustier and doing the same thing.

Is there a desire to do real dramatic roles?

Absolutely. There's a desire to try everything

at least once. At the age of 25, I don't need to burn myself out. I just want to keep learning, honestly; work with people I can learn from.

Which was better: shooting guns or wearing sexy outfits?

What made me feel empowered was the gun, not the clothes. If I had the gun, it didn't matter what your stature was; as long as I was holding the weapon, I win. So that was really great. But the heels sucked. Oh my God, it was awful. In 5 inches of snow in 5-inch heels, you can't look sexy and you can't look like you know what you're doing, 'cause you fall. And I'm klutzy. It's bad.

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600 N. MICHIGAN (AMC)

600 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago
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Show times change daily &
AMC Select - The best specialty films

- **Max Payne** (PG-13) 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30
- **The Express** (PG) 4:30, 9:50
- **Body of Lies** (R) 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:20
- **Nick and Norah** (PG-13) 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:10
- **Eagle Eye** (PG-13) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
- **AMC Select Burn After Rd.** (R) 2:00, 7:30

LANDMARK CENTURY CENTRE CINEMA (LANDMARK)

2828 North Clark St., Chicago
(773) 509-4949

- **Tru Loved** (R) 1:35, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45
- **What Happened** (R) 1:30, 4:10, 7:10, 9:40
- **Rachel Getting** (R) 1:45, 4:25, 7:35, 10:15
- **The Duchess** (PG-13) 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:10
- **Choke** (R) 1:50, 4:20, 7:40, 10:20
- **Religious** (R) 1:40, 3:10, 4:50, 6:15, 7:40, 8:50, 10:15

CITY NORTH 14 (KERASOTES)

2600 N. Western Ave.
(800) 326-3264 #1642

- **Secret of Bees** (PG-13) 10:10, 12:10, 1:00, 3:20, 4:05, 6:20, 7:00, 9:20, 10:00
- **Quarantine** (R) 10:20, 12:40, 3:30, 6:30, 9:00
- **City of Ember** (PG) 10:50, 1:30, 3:50, 6:40, 9:15
- **The Express** (PG) 9:50, 12:50, 3:45, 6:45, 9:40
- **Body of Lies** (R) 10:40, 12:20, 3:10, 4:40, 6:10, 7:40, 9:10, 10:40
- **BH Chihuahua** (PG) 11:50, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:55
- **BH Chihuahua** (PG) 10:00, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:20
- **Eagle Eye** (PG-13) 10:30, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:10
- **Lakeview Terr** (PG-13) 11:10, 2:10, 5:20, 8:10, 10:50
- **Burn After Rd.** (R) 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 6:50, 9:30

DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE)

4614 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago
(773) 784-0893

- **W.** (PG-13) 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
- **Religious** (R) 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
- **Eagle Eye** (PG-13) 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
- **Burn After Rd.** (R) 6:15, 8:15, 10:15
- **HS Musical 3** (G)

FORD CITY 14 (AMC)

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- **Sex Drive** (R) 10:20, 12:45, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:15
- **Max Payne** (PG-13) 10:00, 11:20, 12:30, 1:15, 2:45, 4:20, 5:20, 6:45, 7:45, 9:20, 10:10
- **AMC Select Secret of Bees** (PG-13) 10:40, 11:40, 1:10, 2:10, 3:50, 4:50, 6:30, 7:20, 9:10, 10:00
- **AMC Select W.** (PG-13) 10:35, 1:15, 4:05, 7:15, 9:55
- **The Express** (PG) 1:05, 6:50
- **City of Ember** (PG) 10:05, 12:20, 2:40, 5:00
- **Body of Lies** (R) 10:25, 1:20, 4:15, 7:05, 9:50
- **Quarantine** (R) 10:10, 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:05, 9:40
- **BH Chihuahua** (PG) 10:50, 11:50, 1:00, 2:20, 3:20, 4:40, 5:50, 7:30, 8:00, 10:05
- **Nick and Norah** (PG-13) 10:15, 12:35, 2:55, 5:05, 7:25, 9:30
- **Eagle Eye** (PG-13) 11:05, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:25
- **Lakeview Terr** (PG-13) 7:10, 9:35
- **Family Preys** (PG-13) 10:30, 4:00, 9:45

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- **Death Race** (R) 5:20, 7:25, 9:35
- **Burn After Rd.** (R) 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
- **The Express** (PG) 4:45, 7:20, 9:50
- **Karzzzz** (NR) 6:30, 9:30
- **Drama** (NR) 6:30, 9:30
- **Thirakadha** (NR) 9:00 P.M.

LOGAN THEATRE

2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago
(773) 252-0628

- **Burn After Rd.** (R) 2:00, 4:05, 6:05, 8:10
- **Ghost Town** (PG-13) 2:15, 4:20, 6:30, 8:40
- **Igor** (PG) 2:05, 3:40, 5:15, 6:50
- **Journey-Center** (PG) 2:10, 4:15, 6:15, 8:20
- **Vicky Cristina** (PG-13) 8:30 P.M.

MUSIC BOX

3733 N. Southport, Chicago
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- **Sex Drive** (R) 1:40, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00, 12:45
- **Secret of Bees** (PG-13) 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:30, 12:15
- **W.** (PG-13) 12:10, 3:10, 6:10, 9:10, 12:10
- **Quarantine** (R) 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:40, 10:15, 12:40
- **City of Ember** (PG) 1:20, 4:20
- **The Express** (PG) 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:55, 12:55
- **Body of Lies** (R) 11:10, 2:00, 5:00, 7:10, 7:50, 10:10, 10:40
- **The Duchess** (PG-13) 12:00, 2:45, 5:40, 8:20, 11:00
- **BH Chihuahua** (PG) 11:00, 11:30, 1:30, 2:10, 4:00, 4:50, 6:30, 9:00, 11:45
- **Nick and Norah** (PG-13) 12:30, 2:30, 5:20, 7:45, 10:20, 12:50
- **Appaloosa** (R) 7:00, 9:40, 12:30
- **Karzzzz** (NR) 12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45
- **Eagle Eye** (PG-13) 12:20, 3:20, 6:20, 9:20, 12:00
- **Fireproof** (PG) 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:05
- **Lakeview Terr** (PG-13) 11:40, 2:40, 5:30, 8:10, 10:10, 10:50
- **Burn After Rd.** (R) 1:00, 3:30, 6:15, 8:45, 11:30

RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)

322 E. Illinois Street
847-765-7262
Show times change daily
AMC Select What Happened (R) 10:15, 12:50, 3:30, 6:00, 8:40, 11:20

- **Sex Drive** (R) 11:10, 2:05, 5:00, 7:45, 10:20
- **Max Payne** (PG-13) 11:50, 2:40, 5:35, 8:30, 11:25
- **AMC Select Secret of Bees** (PG-13) 10:30, 1:30, 4:25, 7:30, 10:35
- **AMC Select W.** (PG-13) 10:45, 1:45, 4:50, 8:05, 11:15
- **The Express** (PG) 1:15, 7:10
- **City of Ember** (PG) 10:00, 12:20, 2:40
- **Body of Lies** (R) 10:10, 1:00, 4:10, 5:10, 7:15, 8:15, 10:30, 11:30
- **Quarantine** (R) 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:20, 8:50, 11:05
- **AMC Select The Duchess** (PG-13) 11:15, 1:15, 4:30, 7:00, 10:15
- **BH Chihuahua** (PG) 10:20, 12:40, 3:05, 5:25, 7:40, 10:10
- **AMC Select Religious** (R) 11:15, 2:00, 4:30, 7:20, 10:15
- **Nick and Norah** (PG-13) 11:20, 1:35, 3:50, 6:05, 8:25, 10:40
- **AMC Select Appaloosa** (R) 10:05, 4:10, 10:30
- **AMC Select Rachel Getting** (R) 11:05, 2:00, 4:45, 7:50, 10:50
- **Nights-Rodnith** (PG-13) 10:40, 1:10, 3:50, 6:40, 9:45
- **Burn After Rd.** (R) 11:45, 2:20, 5:15, 7:50, 10:10

WEBSTER PLACE (KERASOTES)

1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago
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- **Sex Drive** (R) 1:10, 5:30, 1:40, 7:00, 9:50
- **Secret of Bees** (PG-13) 11:00, 12:45, 1:40, 3:30, 4:40, 6:15, 7:10, 9:00, 10:00
- **Body of Lies** (R) 10:20, 12:30, 1:20, 3:40, 4:20, 6:30, 7:20, 9:30, 10:20
- **Nick and Norah** (PG-13) 11:30, 1:00, 2:10, 3:15, 4:30, 5:30, 6:50, 7:45, 9:15, 10:05
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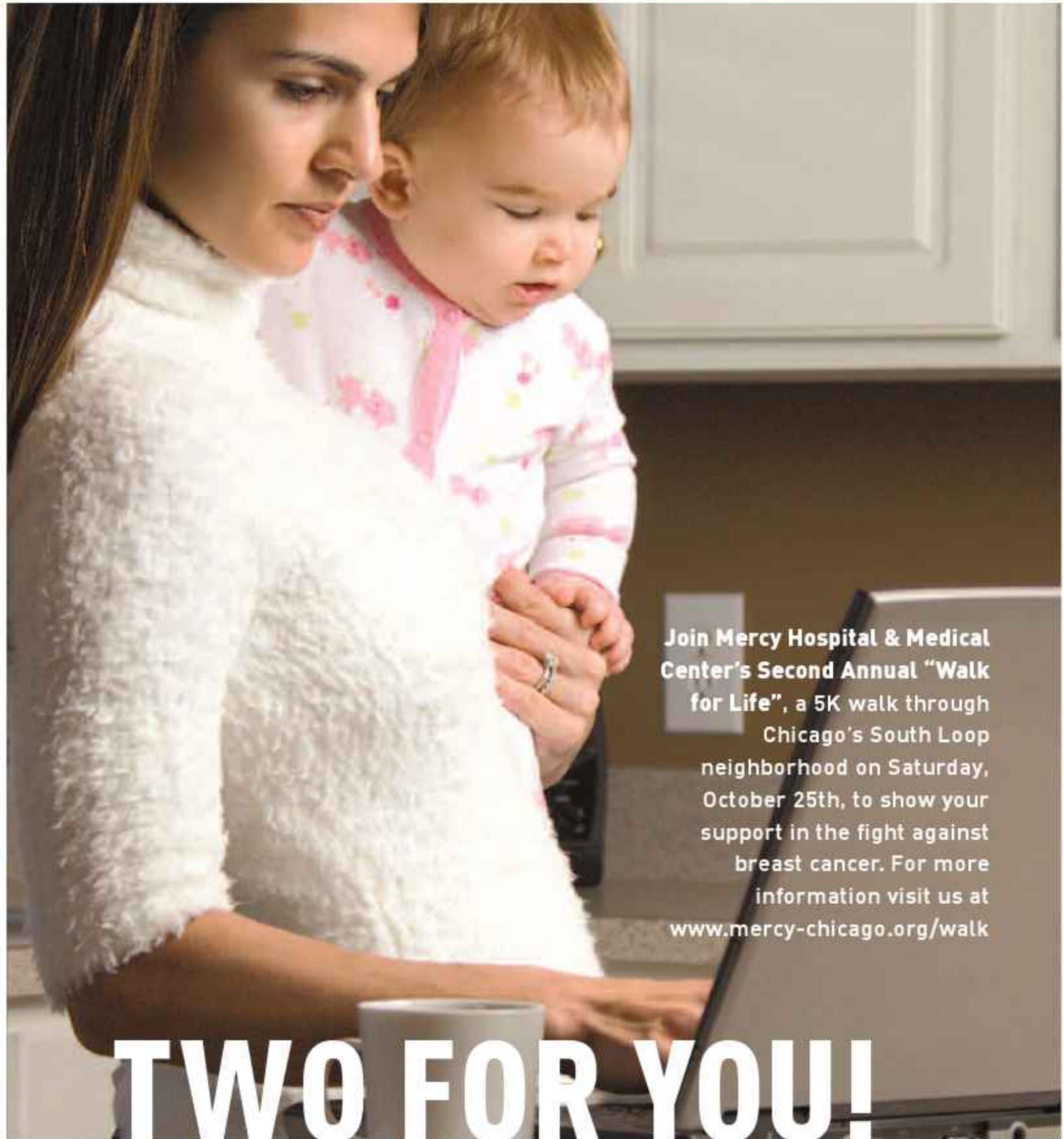
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to the point

Follow the leader

From news services

In the 232-year history of the U.S., it seems the lone president who simultaneously occupied movie screens and the Oval Office was John F. Kennedy: "PT 109," released five months before his 1963 assassination, starred Cliff Robertson and concerned the young JFK as war hero, self-sacrificing leader of men and model of greatness-to-be.

"W." is none of the above.

Directed by Oliver Stone and starring Josh Brolin as George W. Bush, "W."—which opens Friday—is not just a critique, it's a critique of a sitting president. Coming as it does after the satirical media treatment Bush has gotten from Will Ferrell, Keith Olbermann and via the animated "Lil' Bush," the film isn't all that surprising.

But "W." is something extraordinary in its own right: a fairly big-budget production starring credible actors and directed by one of America's more respected, albeit controversial, film directors.

Bush is presented as the black sheep of a political dynasty who surprised his own family by becoming the prodigal son that made good.

"It's about a guy who was flailing around, who pulled his life together at 40 and became president, and asks if he really wanted to be, should he have been, would it be better if he hadn't been and whether we all would have been better off if he'd become baseball commissioner," Brolin said.

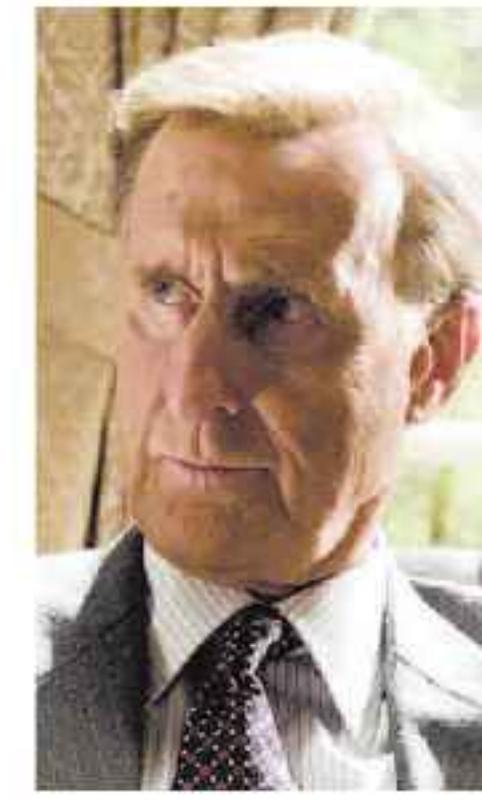
Brolin, who felt "trepidation" about daring to take on the role of a sitting president, said the movie might make voters think differently about the election. "Not necessarily whether they're going Democratic or Republican but just about how they vote," he said.

"Not, 'Gee, it would be nice to have a beer with the guy,' but what our national leadership really means." **NEWSDAY, AP CONTRIBUTED.**

'W.' cast channels real people



Josh Brolin (above) plays President George W. Bush (below).



James Cromwell (above) plays President George H.W. Bush (below).



Ellen Burstyn (above) plays Barbara Bush (below).



Elizabeth Banks (above) plays Laura Bush (below).



Richard Dreyfuss (above) plays Vice President Dick Cheney (below).



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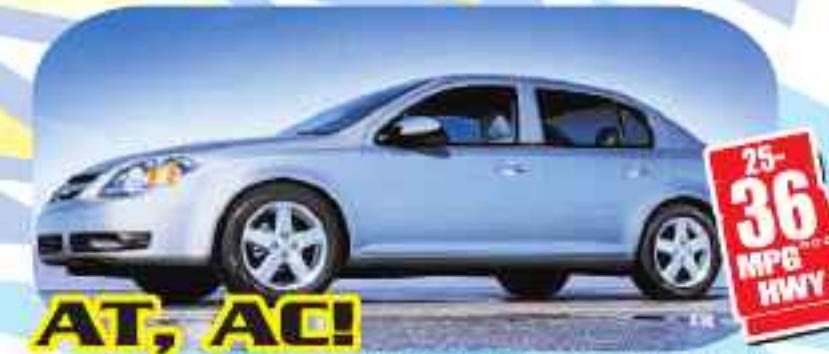
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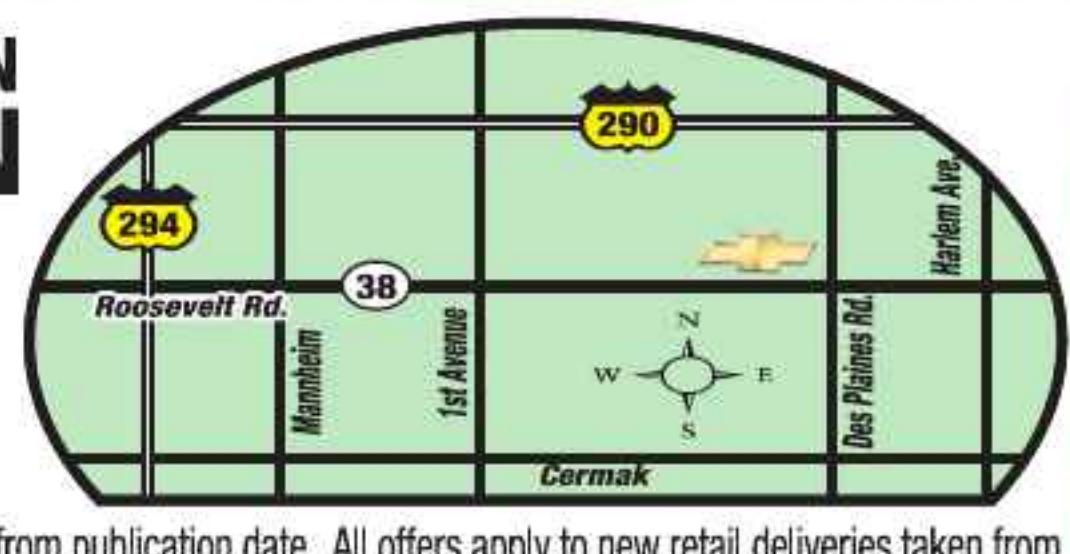


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'Slow-burn' career works for Marsden

Associated Press

Hollywood's leading men usually are perfect physical specimens. Those who aren't become character actors.

Except James Marsden. He's pursued quirky characters despite his leading-man looks. Marsden is the guy on the sidelines, the goofy one who doesn't get the girl. So his face is familiar but not immediately identifiable.

"Most people are like, 'Didn't we go to high school together?'" said the 35-year-old actor, whose screen credits include "Superman Returns," "The Notebook" and three "X-Men" movies.

Marsden is taking a "slow-burn" approach; choosing roles that appeal to him in the hope that a gradual and meandering ascent will lead to a long and varied career.

After his roles in big-budget movies such as "Hairspray," "Enchanted" and "27 Dresses"—where he finally got the girl—Marsden plays a foul-mouthed bigot in the independent teen comedy "Sex Drive," in theaters Friday.

"In going for the movie-star thing, the lead-guy thing, I've managed to have this whole sidetrack thing going where I'm playing these silly roles and doing great, offbeat, different things," he said. "It was just to have fun being an actor, entertain yourself while you're going for the gold. There was the career path and the work path. And now the work path has sort of become the career path."

He steals every scene as Rex, an overbearing tough guy who mercilessly teases his virginal younger brother.

"Sex Drive" director Sean Anders had reservations about casting Marsden. "I thought, 'Oh no, this is some pretty-boy actor who wants to be in a comedy and thinks he's funny but isn't,'" Anders said.

Then he saw an audition tape that Marsden recorded for a different movie. Marsden was so ego-less and goofy, he used his computer Web cam to film himself reading lines for the role he wanted.

"By the end of it, I was like, 'Can we really get this guy?'" Anders said.

Marsden wanted to do comedy, especially after his turn as Cyclops in the "X-Men" movies. Even after

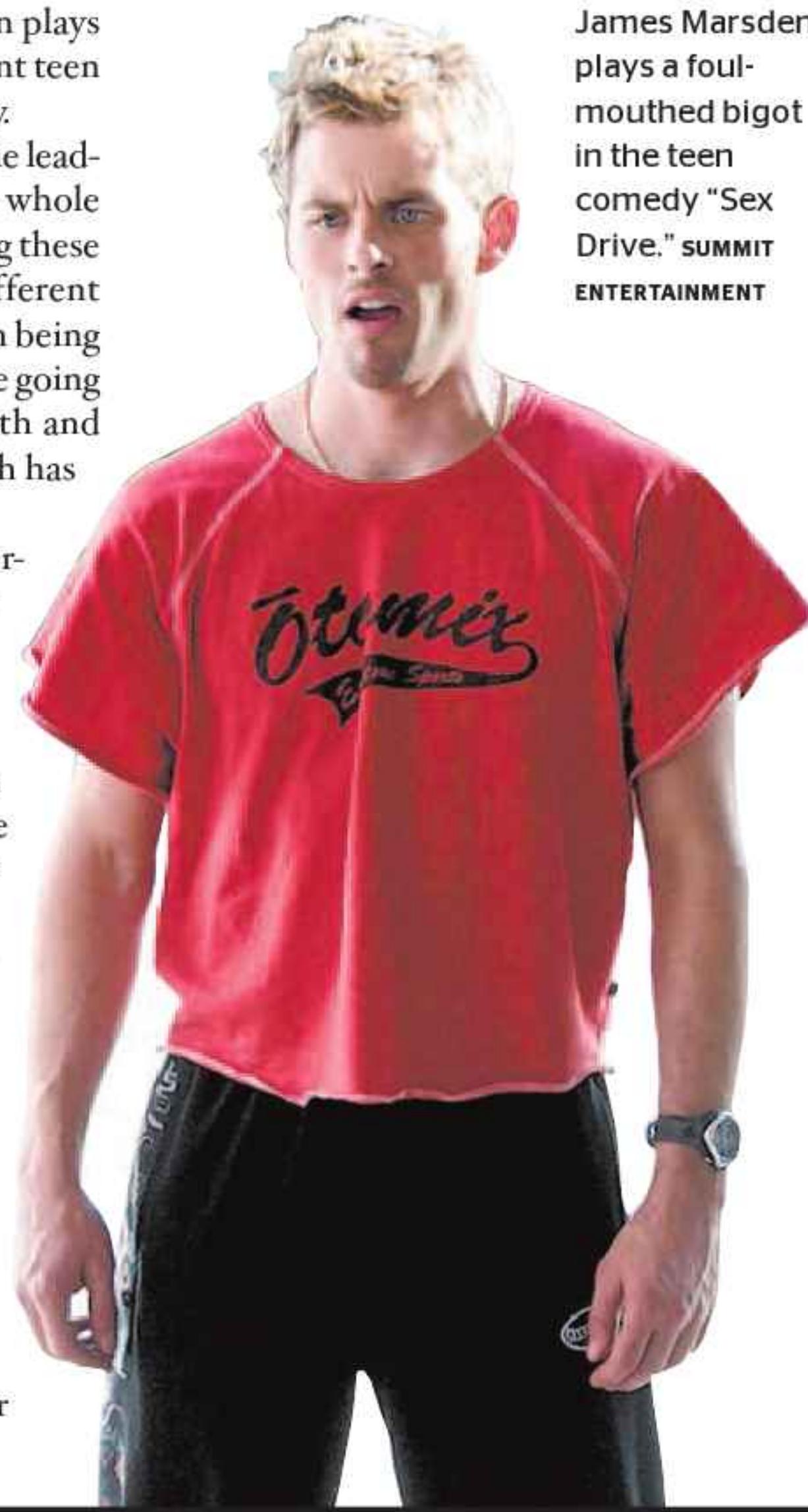
"Hairspray" and "Enchanted," though, he longed for something edgier. With "Sex Drive," he could see the character in his mind: the muscle shirts, the highlighted hair.

Marsden said he also hoped the part might catch the eye of Judd Apatow, director of "Knocked Up" and "The 40-Year-Old Virgin."

"Now I feel like people will go, 'OK, he's funny. He can do comedy,'" he said. "But then I've got to put the brakes on a little bit and remind people I can do other things."

Though he happily plays quirky roles, Marsden hasn't taken his eye off the leading-man prize.

"I'd be lying to you if I said I didn't aspire to that," he said. "I want to be a version of that. ... But I'm more like these weirdo, wacky, stupid characters I keep playing in these movies."

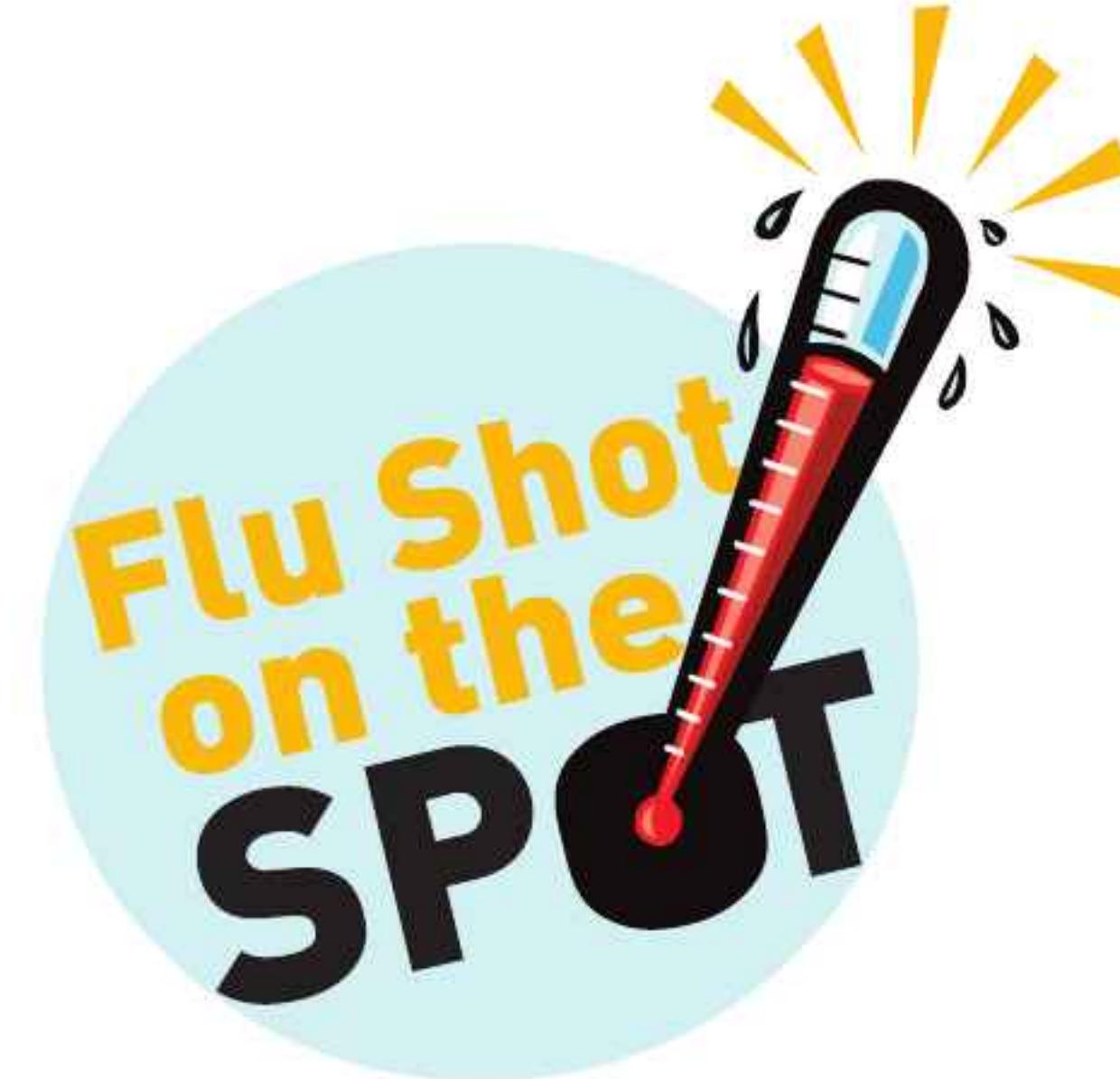


James Marsden plays a foul-mouthed bigot in the teen comedy "Sex Drive." **SUMMIT ENTERTAINMENT**

What Matt Pais says

"'Sex Drive' co-stars [James] Marsden, boasts a performance from Fall Out Boy and a cameo from Seth Green ... so it has to be better than ... 'College,' right?"

» Read Matt's 1-star review at metromix.com.



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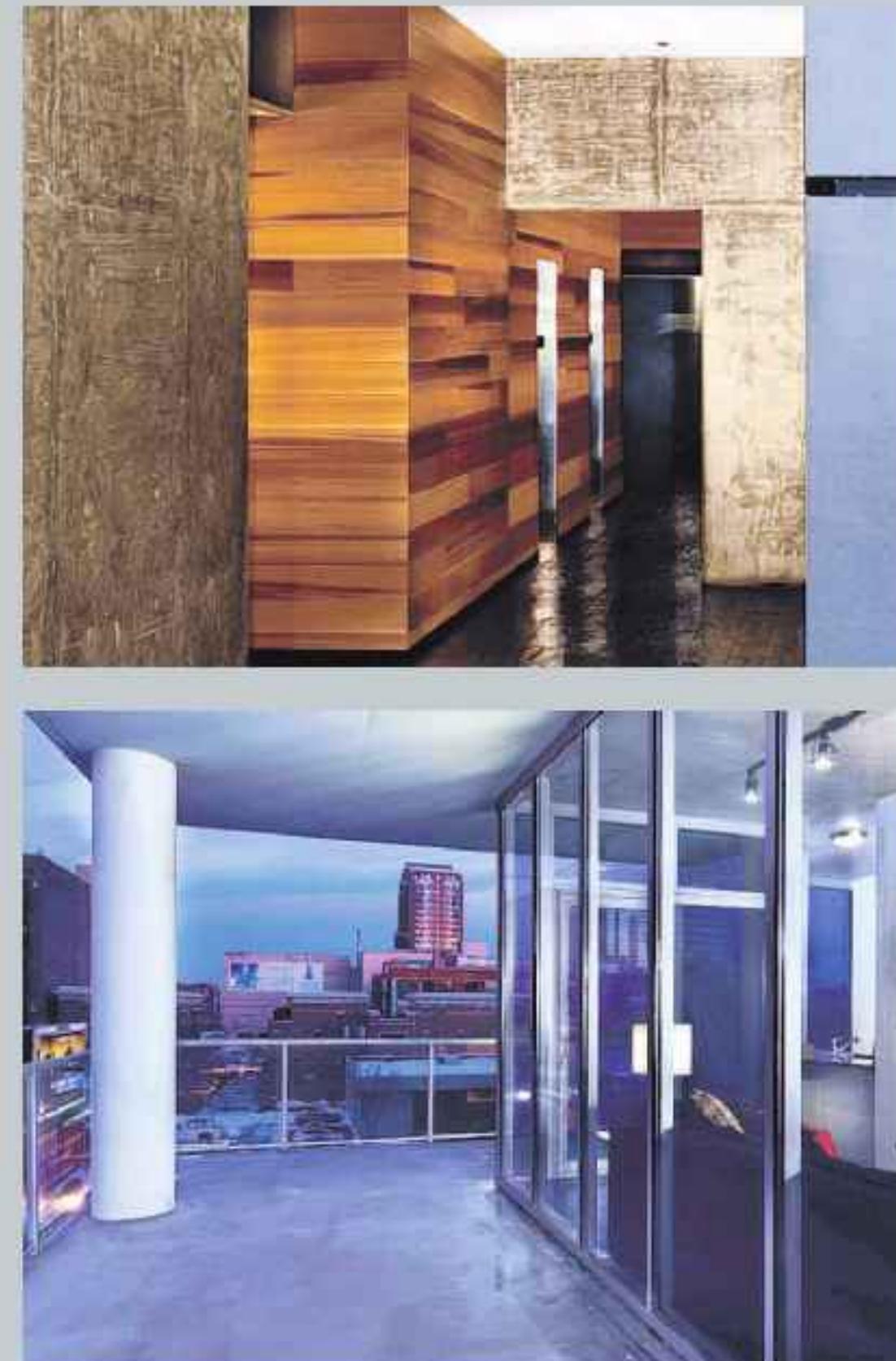

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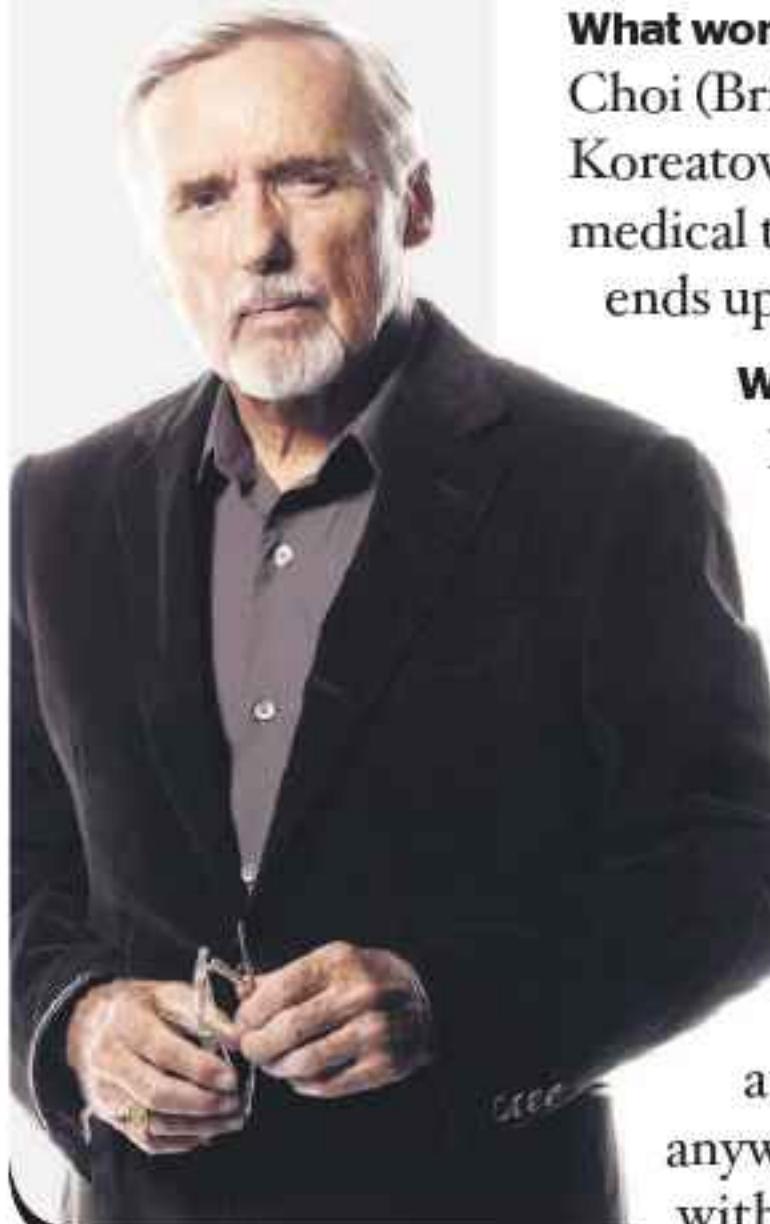


DON'T MISS

» "Crusoe" star Philip Winchester (above) works out island-style.
» TV's sexiest new stars photo gallery at redeyechicago.com/showpatrol

'BSG' BACK

Sci Fi has set Jan. 16 to start airing the final 10 episodes of "Battlestar Galactica."



'Crusoe' a romp; 'Crash' a wreck

Crusoe 7 p.m. Friday, NBC

The scoop: Robinson Crusoe (Philip Winchester) and his friend-not-servant Friday (Tongayi Chirisa) fight pirates, mutineers and natives on the island where Crusoe has been marooned in this adaptation of the Daniel Defoe classic.

What works: Laugh if you want, but I enjoyed most of the two-hour premiere—and not just because of the peep show provided by Winchester and Chirisa. (But hey, that helped.) "Crusoe" is a foolish romp of a show that doesn't seem to take itself too seriously. It offers beautiful scenery (shot in South Africa), MacGyver-like gadgetry (maybe a tad advanced for the 18th Century) and the action-adventure silliness—if not the campiness—of "Xena: Warrior Princess" and "Hercules."

What doesn't: The show's creators decided Crusoe needs a reason for living besides just, you know, staying alive. Enter hokey flashbacks that show Crusoe's happy life with his wife (Anna Walton). Yawn.

Tune in or out? Yes, the dialogue often is wooden and the show shamelessly steals from "Survivor," "Pirates of the Caribbean" and even "Prison Break," but what's not to love about a guy and his bestie living in a treehouse and defending their deserted island from the occasional marauder? Go, Robin, go!

Crash 9 p.m. Friday, Starz

The scoop: Inspired by the 2004 Oscar-winning movie of the same name, the 13-episode "Crash" series tells the stories of the (eventually) intersecting lives of L.A. residents.

What works: In this cast of extremely unlikable characters, only Eddie Choi (Brian Tee) made me feel anything but outrage. The former Koreatown gangbanger is trying to go straight as an emergency medical technician, but he gets sucked back into his former life and ends up the target of crooked detective Axel Finet (Nick Tarabay).

What doesn't: As has-been record producer Ben Cendars, Dennis Hopper—bless his heart—gives his bosses exactly what they want: a crazy, over-the-top performance. But the writers give Hopper (left) the silliest lines onscreen. We meet the wacked-out music mogul during a limo trip in which he's lecturing a certain part of his anatomy, calling it "a private road map to death." It's the most grievous example of the show's overwritten, pretentious dialogue.

Tune in or out? Though the movie couldn't have been more obvious in playing its race cards, "Crash" the series, at least in its opener, is more reserved. But it also doesn't go anywhere, leaving me to wonder why I should spend more time with these unpleasant people.

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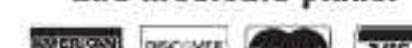
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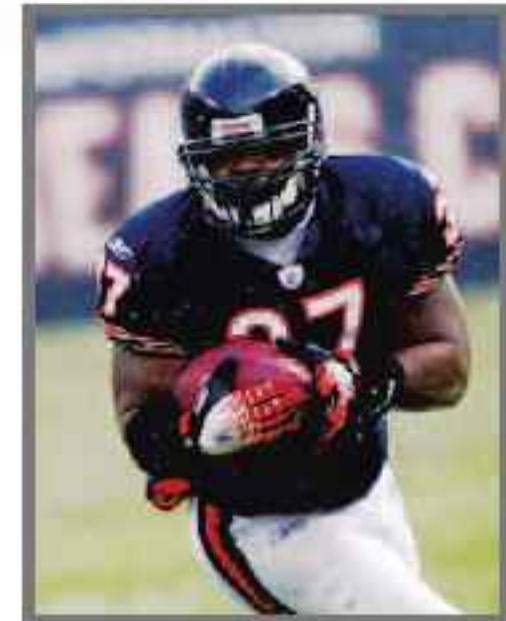
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the gina spot

GINA B.
redeyesex@tribune.com

What's wrong with taking a dating break?

My friend Lorrie and I had a long gab-fest the other night. We discussed our love lives or, rather, the lack thereof.

This was a very different conversation from the past, when we pined over crushes, vented about how we never meet men or, if we had, complained about the men in our lives. Usually our cycles are off. Whenever she has a boyfriend, I'm single, and vice-versa.

But now, for the first time in our lifelong friendship, Lorrie and I are in the same place—neither of us is dating anyone, and we couldn't care less.

I'm not talking about the kind of "couldn't care less" that serves as a defense mechanism, often heard spewed from the mouth of a bitter person who's secretly pining for a relationship. No. We're serious ... we really couldn't care less.

Lorrie, the most boy-crazy of the two of us, is bored of the game.

As for me, I'm painfully disinterested in dating right now; I love my own company. The five hottest men in the lower 48 states could ask me out, and I would find reasons to decline. My libido has taken a handful of Ambien, and I find myself without motivation to date.

Lorrie and I ran down a list of possible reasons why we're suffering from dating disinterest.

Lack of dating options

This point seems statistically impossible. I'm a Chicagoan, and Lorrie resides in New York. I would hope that the first- and third-largest cities in the country would offer dating possibilities. I considered the point that we're both social beings, and neither of us has met anyone compelling in a very long time. But, if we're not open, we can't receive.

TALK BACK

How do you get out of the dating doldrums? E-mail Gina at redeyesex@tribune.com. Be sure to include your full name, age and neighborhood.

verse that I'm single. However, it's all about their happiness, not my perception of their happiness.

We are too self-absorbed

Now we're on to something. We agreed that we're both appropriately self-absorbed. We're each working on our careers. Lorrie's an actress with high aspirations. I'm mourning the recent loss of my mother and trying to rehab

a bad knee injury. We're entitled to self-absorption, aren't we?

We're just fine

We spent another half hour talking and confirmed what we already knew—we're fine. The most disastrous relationship decisions are made in haste. That said, Lorrie and I are determined to tune out our friends and relatives who hound us endlessly about whom we're dating, why we're not dating, and giving us suggestions about how to meet people to date. It's OK that dating is a spectator sport for the time being.

When I come out of retirement, I'll emerge refreshed—and with a vengeance.

SEX COLUMNIST GINA B. IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

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Ramya Duvvuru of the Loop clocked in at a smokin' 13 minutes—John finished in 18 minutes. E-mail redeyeeditor@tribune.com or text "John" and your e-mail address to 32332 to play.

18 min. 13 min.

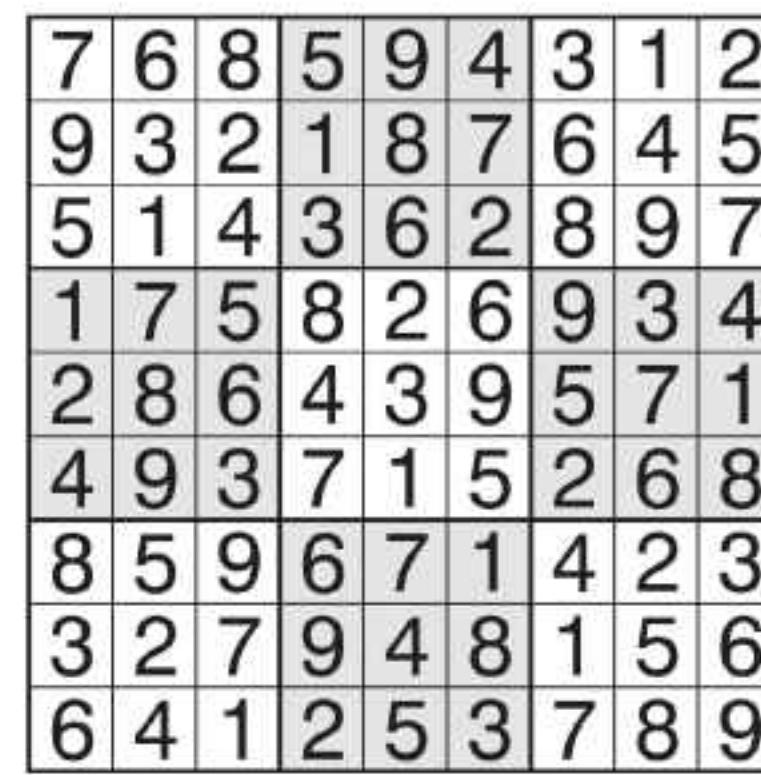


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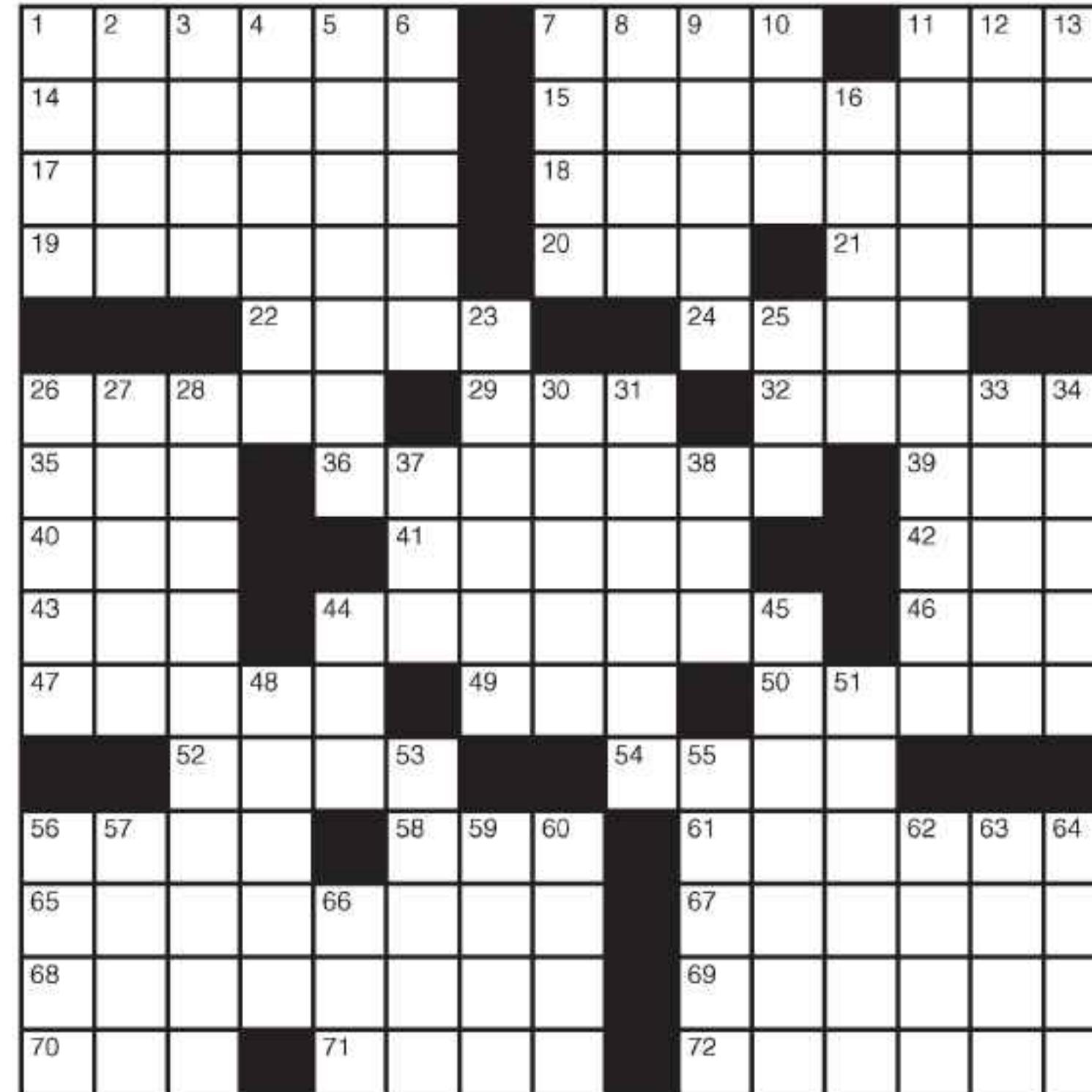
**THURSDAY'S SOLUTIONS****ACROSS**

1 Achieve
7 Dinghy or dory
11 Coupe or sedan
14 Sister of Venus
15 Get more points
17 Start golfing
18 Yelled blue murder
19 Leg ornament
20 Greek X
21 Fitness centers
22 Baghdad land
24 Genesis victim
26 South Korean port
29 Home of the Trojans
32 Proficient
35 Outback nester
36 Foreboding
39 Dogpatch Daisy
40 Pen point
41 Lets the cat out of the bag
42 UFO pilots
43 Aswan, for one
44 Midpoint
46 Young louse
47 Do figure 8's
49 Be litigious
50 Choir section
52 Cut of beef
54 Without clothing
56 Hard labor
58 Nutrition letters
61 Cow organs
65 Activating switch
67 Well-seasoned stew
68 Republican symbol
69 Meeting list
70 Architect Mies van Rohe

71 12/25
72 One of two evils?

DOWN

1 Cinema canine
2 Twixt 12 and 20
3 Long journey
4 Ancient Asia Minor region
5 Fiery hot spot



6 Can./U.S./Mex. treaty
7 Winter pear
8 That hurt!
9 Skylit lobbies
10 Half a fly?
11 Number needed to make a whole
12 Surface measure
13 Movie about John Reed
16 Checked out
23 Feather pens
25 -relief
26 Hangs in the balance
27 Inuit craft
28 Nautilus crew member
30 Major mess-up
31 Spider's network
33 Barbecue site
34 Dry runs
37 Advanced deg.
38 NATO member
44 Bottom fold
45 Football stat
48 Bulbous bloomer
51 Cliff projections
53 King of Troy
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BY
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Hard as nails

Are celebs as tough as their on-screen characters?



Daniel Craig
GETTY IMAGES PHOTO

Dude, that is totally hard-core.

Daniel Craig, a.k.a. James Bond in the upcoming "Quantum of Solace" movie, has been spotted sporting a shoulder sling at promotion events for the flick. His explanation? He jostled an old injury while working on the set.

"It wasn't an essential operation, but if I don't do it now, I could do something on the next movie and rip it out of its socket," he tells the U.K.'s Daily Telegraph.

Craig apparently isn't one to cry about it.

"It's just a pain in the [bleep] really, and it'll be a long wait before it heals properly."

That kind of tough talk got RedEye thinking: Is Daniel Craig really as hard as the character he plays in the movies? And how do other macho celebs compare to their on-screen counterparts? Let's take a look.

NAME: Daniel Craig

ROLE: James Bond

ON-SCREEN: Blows up government property indiscriminately.

IN REAL LIFE: Talks about shoulder surgery like it's a hangnail.

VERDICT: Equally tough



Bond



Johnson

NAME: Dwayne Johnson

ROLE: Sean Porter

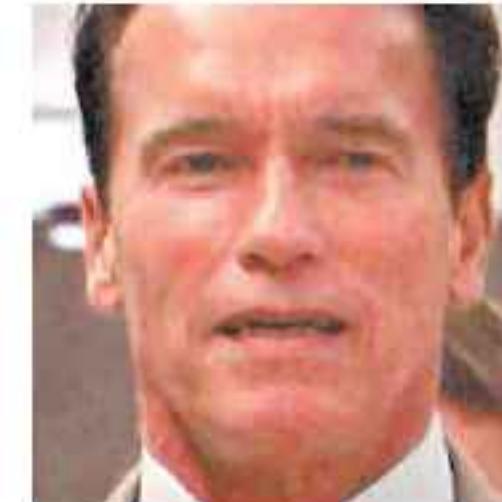
ON-SCREEN: Is a tough-talking detention facility counselor in "Gridiron Gang."

IN REAL LIFE: Has leveraged his macho image to star in family-friendly comedies.

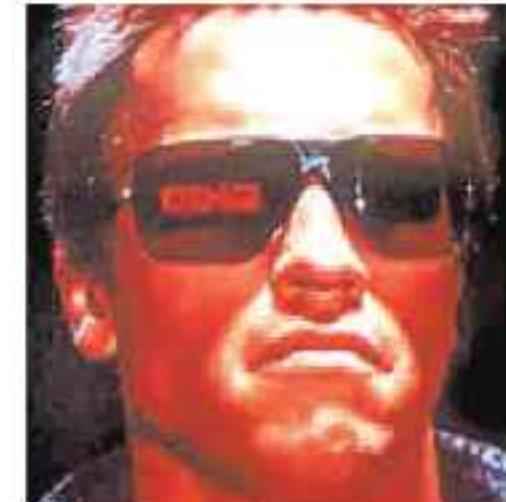
VERDICT: Less tough



Porter



Schwarzenegger



Terminator

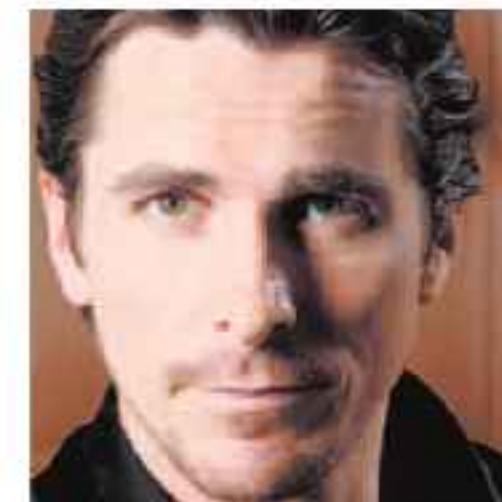
NAME: Arnold Schwarzenegger

ROLE: The Terminator

ON-SCREEN: Takes bullets and saves humanity as an unfeeling robot warrior.

IN REAL LIFE: Is the governor of California.

VERDICT: Less tough



Bale



Batman

NAME: Christian Bale

ROLE: Batman

ON-SCREEN: Scales tall buildings.

IN REAL LIFE: Is hounded by the paparazzi about personal life.

VERDICT: Less tough



Pitt



Achilles

NAME: Brad Pitt

ROLE: Achilles

ON-SCREEN: Wields massive sword in "Troy."

IN REAL LIFE: Watches after six kids with Angelina Jolie.

VERDICT: Equally tough



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**Pitt and Jolie**

GETTY IMAGES FILE

Room for one more?

Sounds like Angelina Jolie has no plans to halt the growth of the brood she and Brad Pitt share.

Asked on the "Today" show Thursday if she was thinking about adopting another child, Jolie nodded. Interviewer Matt Lauer's next question was short and sweet: When?

"It depends," said Jolie, who gave birth to twins three months ago. "You can't even start the process until any new children are six months old to understand how the new family has settled, to see what you can absorb into a new family." Stay tuned.

On the prowl

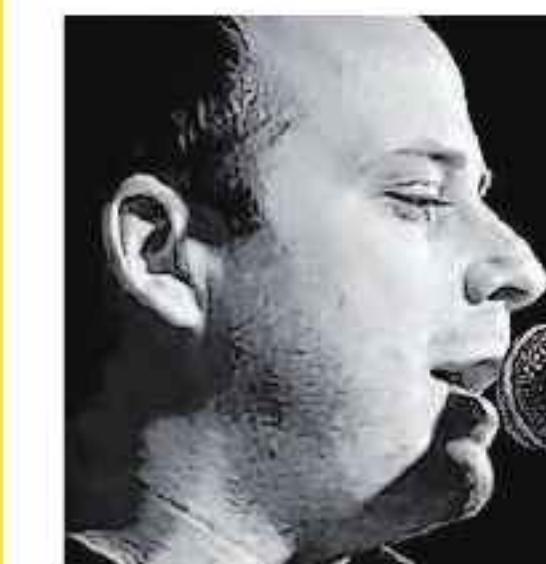
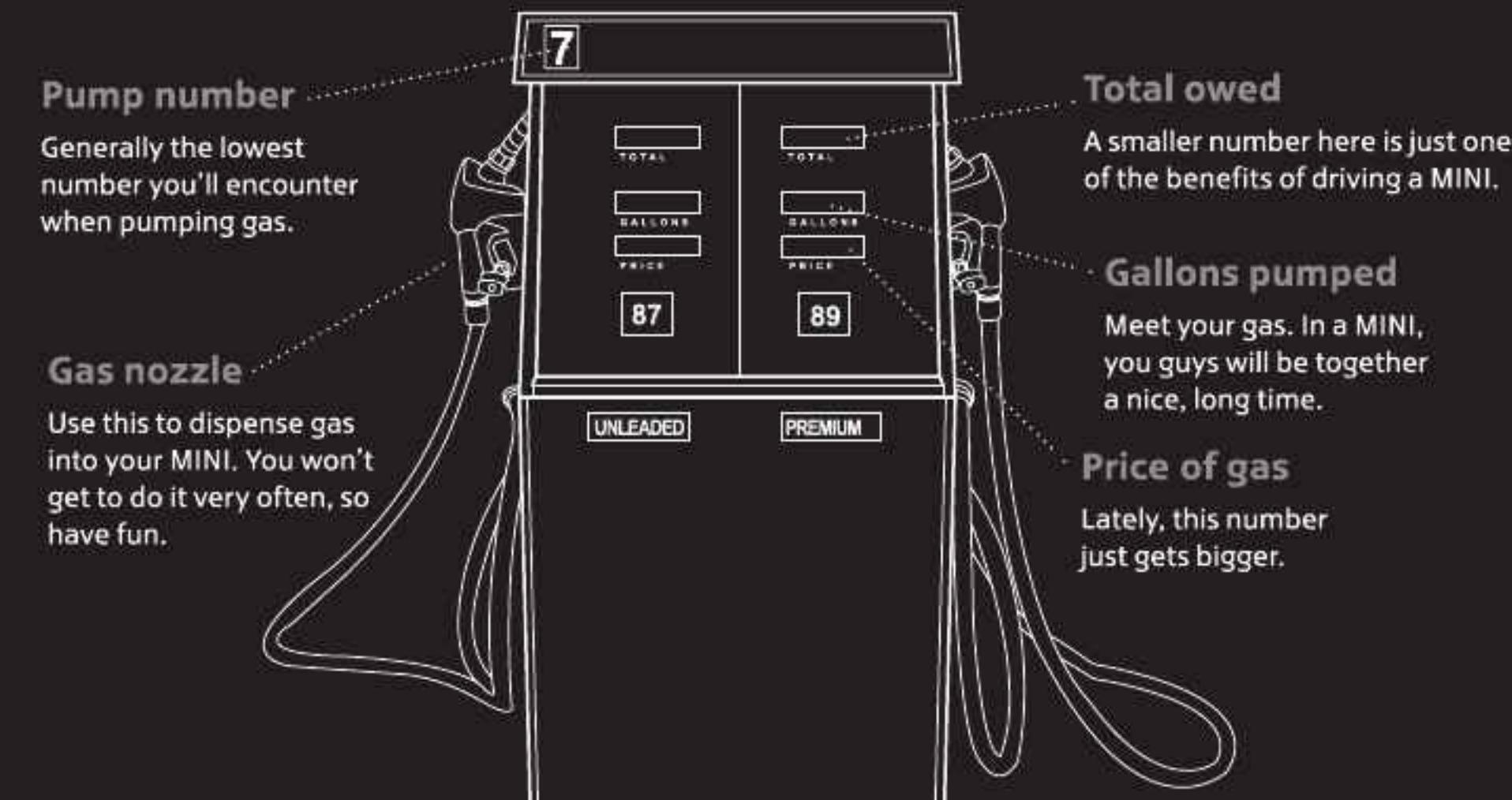
Take this with a grain of salt, but exes John Mayer and Jennifer Aniston were spotted together again this week in L.A., according to People magazine. The pair, who split in August, also were seen together in New York last weekend, according to the mag. No word from either of the stars' reps as to the status of their relationship.

Great expectations

Kevin Costner and his wife, Christine, are expecting again, a rep tells People. The couple were married in 2004 and welcomed a child, Cayden Wyatt, last year, the magazine reports. Costner has three children from a previous marriage. He's also releasing a country music album in November.

txtable**Celebrity twin**

Do you look like a celebrity? Show us! Send your picture along with the name of the celeb who shares your style to jxwalsh@tribune.com. For Friday, we have Matt Blanton. Think he's a ringer for Bruce Willis? Text "twin" and the number of your opinion to 47383. You'll get the poll results instantly.

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Lost in translation

"I mean, was it my work on 'The Princess Diaries' that convinced you I could play a recovering drug addict?"

Anne Hathaway to The Associated Press about her role in "Rachel Getting Married."

TRANSLATION: Do I look like a recovering drug addict?



"It feels so good to be back after being down just a little bit."

Janet Jackson to AP about returning to her tour after a health hiatus

TRANSLATION: As we all know, the best cure for migraine-induced vertigo is an ear-splitting concert tour.

"I was nervous and thought I'd be awful at acting, but the whole experience felt really comfortable and came pretty easily since I was allowed to play myself."

David Archuleta to Us Weekly about a guest role on Nickelodeon's "iCarly"

TRANSLATION: Let's be honest, when am I ever *not* nervous?

red hot

vital corgan

How does Smashing Pumpkins frontman Billy Corgan feel about disbanding the group in 2000? It was "a total mistake," he tells Rolling Stone.

But on the eve of the band's 20th anniversary shows, the Pumpkins are riding the success of their *Guitar Hero* single, "G.L.O.W."

So does Corgan ever play the game? Heck no!

"You don't play *Guitar Hero* if you are a guitar hero."



Marshall

'Runway' winner working it

Fresh off her "Project Runway" win, Leanne Marshall may already have a star client: former "Runway" guest judge Sarah Jessica Parker.

"I guess ... she was chatting with [Bravo programming VP] Andy Cohen, and she said she was a fan, and she wants to be my customer," Marshall told **ew.com**.

Marshall, who said she watched every epi-

sode of "Sex and the City" to unwind when she was creating her collection, is planning to move to New York with her \$100,000 prize.

"The ironic thing is I'm so broke I can't even buy myself a pair of shoes, so maybe that's what I'll do: Buy myself a pair of shoes. Maybe put off paying some bills," she said.

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THE VELVET ROPE

Guess who's back

Eminem is ready for a "Relapse."



Eminem

Shade 45, according to reports.

Though he didn't reveal a release date, he hinted it would drop before the end of the year.

The rumored collaborators? 50 Cent, DMX, Obie Trice and Cashis—and maybe even T.I., according to eonline.com.



Duchovny



Leoni

Splitsville

David Duchovny, who recently was released from rehab for sex addiction, and wife Téa Leoni are split—and have been for a while, their reps say.

"The couple has confirmed that they have in fact been separated for several months," according to a statement posted on People and Us Weekly's Web sites. "The couple

had hoped to keep this separation private for the sake of their children."

The two have been married since 1997 and have two children.

THE DIGIT

No. 1

Britney Spears (left) is back on top. Her new single, "Womanizer," sits atop the Billboard



Hot 100 this week, giving Spears her first No. 1 single since "... Baby One More Time" topped the chart in 1999.